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More suspects to be indicted in Oklahoma City bombing; report

been identified in the Oklahoma City truck bombing and will be indicted within the next week, a newspaper reported Saturday. John Magaw, director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), told the Daily Oklahoma that the suspects would be indicted by a federal grand jury investigating the April 19 blast that destroyed a federal building and killed 168 people. "I believe right now they've all been identified and, if they're not in custody, we know where they are," Mr. Magaw-said. So (ar, only two people have been charged in the bombing - Timoth McVeigh and Terry Nichols - who met while serving in the army. Authorities initially expressed doubt that McVeigh could have masterminded the bombing, but Magaw said that in the case the government has built against him "he is not going to be a foot soldier."



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Croatian army conquer Serb stronghold

Bosnian troops join offensive

ZAGREB, Croatia (AP) -Backed by a dawn artillery barrage, Croatian army troops marched into the Serb stronghold of Knin on Saturday, seizing what had been the heart of the 4-year-old Serb rebellion.

Residents had fled Knin, leaving it virtually deserted when Croatian troops entered late Saturday morning. Refugees headed northeast towards neighbouring Serbheld Bosnia. U.N. aid officials said they were preparing

for about 30,000 refugees. "Almost the only people remaining were the dead and the dying," Maj. Alan Bal-four, a U.N. spokesman, said by telephone from Knin.

Also, for the first time Saturday, U.N. officials said Bosnian troops in the northwest Bihac enclave crossed the international border between the two countries. Bosnian troops pushed west as Croat troops pushed east, closing in from two sides on the Serb-held Slunj area.

James Kanu, a U.N. spokesman in the area, refused to say how many Bosnian troops were involved.

Mr. Balfour said sporadic firing continued in the streets of Knin, about 200 kilometres south of Zagreb. after the army entered about 11 a.m. (0900 GMT), but that Croat troops appeared to be

consolidating their hold. Earlier, Croatian officials said the distinctive Croatian checkerboard flag - for Croatian rule - had been hoisted above the 13th cen-

tury citadal that dominates Knin's landscape. The second day of attacks on Knin resumed with full

fury around dawn Saturday. Šusan Angle, a U.N. official in Zagreb, said a shell landed just 100 metres from the U.N. headquarters in Knin early Saturday, killing seven civilians and wounding

11 others huddled nearby. Two Czech peacekeepers also died Saturday after an attack on their U.N. observation post near Gospic, a major staging point of the offensive northwest of Knin, said Alun Roberts, another U.N.

Mr. Balfour said the Croatian troops were in front of the U.N. compound, about one kilometre north of the town centre, but that they had agreed not to enter if U.N. troops stayed put.

The whereabouts of the rebel Serb leaders, who were headquartered in Knin, was unknown, Mr. Balfour said. Presumably they, too, had

With tanks and soldiers on the streets of Knin, the Croats advanced from the west on other Serb-held

Croat jets bombarded two Serb-held towns located in a stretch of territory south of Zagreb and north of the Bihac enclave, Mr. Kanu said. Thousands of Serb civilians were fleeing.

Bosnian government troops, meanwhile, overran several U.N. observationposts near the border and demanded that a dozen others be abandoned, U.N.

Mr. Balfour confirmed that Gracac, a town about 40 kilometres northwest of Knin, also had fallen to the Croats. There were virtually no Serb defences between the Croats had controls of a broad swath of land north of

The Croats claimed they were nearing a rebel Serb airfield at Udbina, north of Gracac, which had been used for air attacks on the northwestern Bosnian region of Bihae, bordering Croatia.

The Croatian and Bosnian governments strengthened their military alliance two weeks ago, ostensibly to defend Bihac. But that also gave the Croatian army the green light to pour thousands of troops into Bosnia within striking distance of Knin.

In Knin, U.N. peacekeepers brought some of the wounded to a hospital under shelling from Croat forces, officials said.

Col. Andrew Leslie, the U.N. chief of staff in Knin, told Cable News Network that the hospital ran out of

Mr. Leslie said he saw about a dozen bodies lying in the streets - half in civilian clothes, half in military uniform - while he helped transport wounded.

with almost all U.N. observation posts in the area, Mr. Leslie said.

Communication was lost

The Security Council late Friday demanded that Croats halt their offensive, but Zagreb's ambassador to the United Nations defended the attack as an impetus to future peace talks.

offering a solution to what the international community could not do," Ambassador Vladimir Drobnjak said in a statement. He said the military action would "rejuvenate

the stalled peace process in a very short time.

Croatia, tired of waiting for the United Nations to reintegrate the one-third of rebel-held land as required by a 1992 mandate, attacked first in May, regaining a chunk of territory southeast of Zagreb.

It made no secret of plans to move next on areas south of the capital and down along the Adriatic hinterland, of which Knin is the centre. Before launching its offensive at dawn Friday, Croatia rejected an 11th-hour offer from the Serbs to discuss territorial reintegration the first time they ever had made such a proposal.

The Croats rolled through U.N. zones at various points, and peacekeepers said several of their positions were deliberately attacked.

One Danish peacekeeper died, two Poles were wounded and at least 90 peacekeepers were detained in various Croat attacks and artillery and aerial bombardments on U.N. observation posts on Friday. Those detained in-cluded 43 Canadians taken at gunpoint by the Croats to the Adriatic port of Zadar, said Lt. Cmdr. Jeff Agnew, a Canadian military spokesman in Zagreb.

Croatian foreign minister Mate Granic, optimistic that the Croats' 100,000 wellarmed men would triumph against 50,000 well-equipped rebels, said he expected the

In an interview Saturday with the Associated Press, Mr. Granic pledged human (Continued on page 7)

fires his gun in celebration of the capture photo)



A resident of the Croatian city of Split of the rebel Serb "capital" Knin (AFP

King urges Aqaba development

AQABA (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday called on the concerned authorities in the Aqaba region to give due care to the development of the port city of Aqaba and to provide all the required services that help attract

Noting that the city constitutes one of the major tourism attractions in the Kingdom, King Hussein stressed the need for retaining and projecting the cultural character of the

King Hussein was speaking at a meeting with Minister of Tourism Abdul Ilah Al Khatib and Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) President Fayez Khasawneh in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

At the meeting, during which a general review of plans and projects for the development of Agaba Region was made, King Hussein requested that special attention be given to the protection of the environment and for keeping the beaches clean and safe from pollution.

King Hussein passed directives concerning the economic situation in Aqaba and the improvement of the local residents' living standards, especially the limited-income groups.

Dr. Khasawneh outlined the various programmes and plans undertaken by ARA for the development Aqaba for tourism purposes and the development of various lands and housing districts. He also gave

(Continued on page 7)

Cabinet allocates JD 259,000 for refugee camp services

AMMAN (Petra) - The Cabinet on Saturday approved allocating JD 259,000 for committees in charge of improving services at Palestinian refugee camps. Of the total sum, JD 5,000 will be distributed to committees at each of Al Hussein, Al Wihdat, Al Sukhneh and Prince Hassan camps, JD 18,000 to Al Talibiya camp. JD 16,000 to Madaba camp. JD 40,000 to each of Hitten. Jerash and Azmi Al Mufti camps, JD 20,000 to Al Zarga and Souf camps, JD 000 to Baqaa camp and JD 10,000 to Irbid camp. In its meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Their mit is said to have Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the a cause for the Beade Cabinet discussed the new administrative divisions draft bandment. I think its regulation. It also approved a there's been a recomme decision by the council of hetween the two 253 mg development to pay JD 500 in their plea against no weapons. Sanac Sanac compensation to subscribers to car telephone services. representance of all The compensation will be based Bearles Fan Chin paid in January 1996 to about 1,200 subscribers. The council of ministers decided also to allow international news agencies and television networks to bring into the King-

Afghanistan wants worldwide ban

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ing the Amman Economic

Summit in the end of October

on land mines KABUL (AP) - Afghanistan, a country awash in millions of land mines, on Saturday called for a worldwide ban on the production, export and stockpiling of land mines. The United Nations estimates at least 10 million land mines are scattered throughout Afghanistan, the legacy of 16 years of war. Mine clearing agencies in the war-ravaged capital estimate that 20 Afghans are injured or killed each day as a result of land mines.

Arafat and Peres to meet on Monday Palestinians sceptical about outcome of talks

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — A Palestinian official was sceptical Saturday that PLO Chief Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres could resolve conflicts over expanding Palestinian autonomy in their meeting next week.

Labour Minister, Samir Ghosheh, told reporters that the meeting will take place in the Egyptian resort town of Taba on Monday.
"But I don't think this

meeting will resolve the various disputed issues," said Mr. Ghosheh after the Palestinian cabinet's weekly "There has been some

progress, but there are still huge difficulties," he added. "The negotiations will continue and the important thing is to get results... even if that took more time

Israeli and PLO delegates have been conducting negotiations in the southern Israeli town of Eilat, just across the border from Taba. The two sides are trying to iron out disputes over implementing the next stage of Palestinian self-rule, including Israeli troop redeployment from areas handed over to Palestinian control and Palestinian elections for a governing council. Mr. Ghosheh said the problems included water rights, Israeli withdrawal from unpopulated areas in the West Bank and the participation of Palestinians from Jerusalem in the elections.

Palestinian leaders have accused Israel of creating delays in concluding the negotiations by remaining obstinate on issues of debate. "The Palestinian authority

has been as flexible as possible in the negotiations but obstacles placed by the Israeli side still prevent us from reaching an agreeement, Mr. Arafat was quoted as saying in a cabinet statement issued after the meeting. Chief negotiator Saeb Ere-

kat said that even though last week's talks were "serious and deep, this does not mean that the gaps have been Mr. Erekat said the Israelis

should submit a schedule for their withdrawal from the unpopulated areas which make up about 60 per cent of the West Bank. "We don't demand today that the redeployment (from

unpopulated regions) take place immediately, but we demand that it take place after the inauguration of the self-rule council.... and we demand very clear-cut terms of reference for the withdrawal," he said.



Yasser Arafat

Israel television reported on Friday that some of the debated issues had been resolved during last week's talks, including an Israeli commitment to a timetable for withdrawing from six of the seven major West Bank

Israel has so far agreed to withdraw from four of the cities before Palestinian elections are held. The television report said Israel has agreed to withdraw from an additional two - Bethlehem and Ramaliah - before the end of the year.

Hebron, the seventh town, is more complex because 450 Jewish settlers live among the 80,000 Palestinian residents



Shimon Peres Mr. Erekat said special security arrangements were being discussed for Hebron.

He dismissed the Israeli position that the settlers could co-exist with the Palestinians in the city, where tension have run high since Jewish settler Baruch Goldstein shot to death 29 Muslim worshipper in the city's main mosque in February 1994.

"Even though the purpose of the peace process is to see the reconciliation between the Palestinian and Israeli people in terms of coexistence, I know that coexistence between the Palestinian people and settlers is an impossibility," he

Hizbollah leaders seek to show united front

BAALBEK, Lebanon (AP) - Leaders of the Hizbollah guerrilla group sought Saturday to make a show of unity following reports of differences in religious dogma and strategy in

the fight against Israel. No mention was made of the issues discussed at a rare public summit of top fundamentalist clerics in Brital, a Hizbollah stronghold in the Syriancontrolled Bekaa Valley.

However, Hizbollah Secretary General Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah rejected a demand by the United States and Israel that the Iran-backed faction give up

its weapons.
"Our strength is in the weapons we have. To give it up means losing," Mr. Nasrallah said.

The meeting also in-cluded Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, spiritual guide of Shiite Muslim fundamentalists, and Sheikh Sobhi Tufeili, leader of the extremist wing within the organisation.

The various leaders owe allegiance to different factions within the Iranian government.

Mr. Tufeili is believed to favour a continued struggle against Israel until the elimination of the Jewish state. However, Mr. Nasrallah and other moderate figures appear willing to compromise after an Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon.

Mr. Fadlallah, whose own relations with Tehran are reportedly strained over the religious leadership of Shiites worldwide, has stayed out of the fray and sought to keep the Lebanese fundamentalists united.

Lebanese government dis-

Israel has demanded the

(Continued on page 7)

Abul Ragheb says donors may set up Middle East Bank

said on Saturday that a proposed \$25 billion Middle East bank to finance projects in the region may be announced at the end of next Middle East and North Africa economic summit which will be held in Amman in October.

Industry and Trade Minister Ali Abul Ragheb told reporters the summit's steering committee was debating whether to announce the bank's birth as part of the meeting's final declaration.

But he said the meeting may also end in choosing to establish an intermediary financial lending institution as a compromise between the United States and Europe. Washington, backed by

Israel and most Arab neighbours, has lobbied for the creation of a bank to finance the economic development of the region as part of the Middle East peace process after the 1993 PLO-Israel accord. But the European Un-

ion (EU) says there are enough lending bodies in the region and argues the World Bank and the European Union's Investment Bank have already pledged \$23 billion to the

The alternative proposal of a financial intermediary would not involve. establishing a separate entity like the bank based in the region. Its role would be to mobilise funds from existing financial institu-

Mr. Abul Ragheb said the declaration would also

AMMAN (R) - Jordan include the creation of other regional projects.

The United States, Russia, the European Union, Japan, Canada, Egypt, the Palestinian Authority, Tunisia, Morocco and Israel are on the summit's steering committees.

More than 1,000 government leaders and businessmen will attend the three-day conference, starting October

It is a follow-up to last November's Casablanca economic summit for North Africa and the Middle East which brought together for the first time Arab political leaders and businessmen with Israeli counterparts.

Foreign businessmen will be invited, for the first time. to participate in infrastructure projects to rehabilitate the Middle East." Mr. Abul Ragheb said.

Jordan, he said, will present 27 major projects, mostly infrastructure projects in water, mineral, transport, communications and tourism at an estimated cost of 13.5 billion.

Multi-billion dolalr products to develop the Jordan Rift Valley along its borders with Israel, including a canal linking the Dead Sea with the Red Sea, will also be presented.

Jordan will also offer 65 medium to small sized private sector projects to foreign investors.

U.S. State Department senior Middle East official Robert Pelletreau has the summit said will introduce to private business leaders new commercial opportunities and projects that are opening up as a result of progress in the peace process. "We believe it should attract widespread interest and atten-

Syria says Israel refusing to resume peace talks

accused Israel on Saturday of refusing to resume peace talks at ambassadorial level.

"Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has committed one of the biggest mistakes when he refused negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track," the official daily Syria Times said. It gave no further

Two Israeli newspapers reported on Thursday that Mr. Rabin had turned down a proposal by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to

DAMASCUS (R) - Syria resume talks between ambassadors and would only accept renewal of talks between army officers. Mr. Rabin's spokeswoman, Aliza Goren. would not confirm Mr. Christopher had made such a

> Syria refused last month to sent its military experts to r Washington for talks with their Israeli counterparts on security arrangements which would back up a proposed Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, captured by

Lieutenant General Hikmat Shihabi, Syria's army chief, and his Israeli counterpart, Lieutenant General Amonon Shahak, discussed the security arrangements in

Washington in June. But the talks, covering early-warning systems, demilitarised zones and peacetangible results.

keeping troops, produced to The Syria Times repeated Syria's rejection of Israeli de-

mands that an early warning

ground station be set up in the Golan. "Israel is seeking a very

special kind of peace, which would allow Israel to continue to occupy parts of the Arab lands whether by setting up Jewish settlements or by installing Israeli controlled early warning systems." the paper said.

Syria and Israel have held sporadic peace talks since 1991 but the negotiations are stalled over the fate of the Golan, security arrangements and future ties.

Iraq says U.S. politicising issue of Kuwaiti missing

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq accused the United States and Kuwait Saturday of using the issue of Kuwaitis missing since the 1990-1991 Gulf war as a political ploy to prolong sanctions.

"The issue of missing Kuwaitis is... a political tool America and Kuwait employ to justify prolonging the sanctions," the government newspaper Al Jumhouriya said.

Gulf war ceasefire Resolution 687 linking the ban on Iraqi oil exports to full adherence to the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire terms on disarmament had "nothing to do with the missing (Kuwaitis)," it said.

President Bill Clinton said in a letter to Congress Tuesday that the United States would not lift the oil sanctions until Baghdad. accounted for the missing Kuwaitis, returned Kuwaiti property and improved its human rights record.

"Clinton lies when he claims that Iraq refuses to return missing Kuwaitis and Kuwaiti property," Al Jumhouriya said.

Kuwait, backed by its ally the United States, wants Iraq to account for 600 missing Kuwaitis, among other de-mands, before the oil embargo can be lifted.

Al Jumhouriya said Iraq was willing to return Kuwaiti property but the Kuwaiti authorities "have frequently rejected receiving it or conducting talks on how to hand it

The International Commit-

tee of the Red.Cross (ICRC) said Friday that Kuwaiti and Iraqi officials ended a twoday meeting in Geneva on clearing up the fate of 600 people who went missing during Iraq's seven-month

occupation of the emirate. But the ICRC shed no light on whether any of the 600 cases had been resolved.

The Iraqi News Agency said in June that Iraq had dealt with 168 individual files given to it by the ICRC.

Iraq has repeatedly denied that it had any Kuwaiti detainees on its territory, but savs it would do its best to investigate their fate. On Saturday, Iraq said it would do everything possible to have the sanctions eased or lifted.

Diplomats estimate the number of Britons, Saudis, Americans and French nationals missing in the conflict at about two dozen.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, ending a visit to Kuwait Thursday, said he would ask Baghdad to step up the search for missing Kuwaitis. Iraq is a long-time ally of Moscow.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's defence minister said in remarks published Saturday the army's effectiveness was 85 per cent restored after damage caused by the Iraqi occupation of 1990-91.

Sheikh Ahmad Hamoud Al Jaber Al Sabah added that Kuwait and other Gulf Arab states were considering setting up an early warning system to help bolster defences,

the English-language Arab Times quoted him as saying in an interview.

"The ability of the army is over 85 per cent now and we hope to complete the rest of the work over the coming few years," he said.

"At present the Kuwaiti army is capable of safeguarding the security of Kuwait's borders and appropriately responding to any enemy movements, supported by brothers in the GCC and friendly troops in the re-

Under a defence pact with Washington concluded after the Gulf war, U.S. weaponry is stored in Knwait for theuse of American forces who would fly in from Indian Ocean bases in case of any emergency súch as Iraq's 1990 invasion.

Kuwait is a member of the Peninsular Shield defence force created by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman and Kuwait to reduce their military dependence on Western

Sheikh Ahmad said the GCC economic and military alliance was studying ways to adapt the Peninsular Shield to help the region's countries become self-reliant on de-

He added he wanted to expand the army by recruiting individuals suitable for training in high-tech weapon-

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arab League chief to visit Algeria

CAIRO (AFP) — Arab League chief Esmat Abdul Meguid is to visit Algeria for talks on the possible deployment of league observers in presidential elections. Akhbar Al Yom newspaper said Saturday. The Egyptian government daily said the secretary general was expected to travel to Algeria on Aug. 21 to meet President Liamine Zeroual, who aims to hold the elections before the end of the year.

Mrs. Arafat, daughter leave hospital

PARIS (AFP) - Suha Arafat, the wife of Palestine. Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, left the American Hospital after giving birth on July 24 to a baby daughter. Suha Arafat carried the newborn Zahwa. named after the mother of the PLO chief, in her arms after being released from the hospital, officials said. Mr. Arafat had travelled to Paris after Zahwa was born to see her, and to meet with French President Jacques Chirac. The baby was the first for the couple.

Arafat marks 66th birthday

SOUDANIYYEH, Gaza Strip (AP) - No one sang "happy birthday Yasser" and there were no candles on the cake. But Yasser Arafat's 66th birthday was celebrated Friday for the first time in Gaza since the Palestinian leader set up his self-rule government last year. A beaming Arafat sat between two of his ministers in a larger seaside tent north of Gaza City and watched the show that was put on in his honour by the Palestinian Union for Equitation. There were speeches that extolled Mr. Arafat as a hero, traditional dances and gifts: A copper Turkish coffee set and a picture of the Dome of the Rock. There was also horse racing of some sort: The horses trotted on a stretch of sand some 150 metres from the birthday stand, weaving between families having refreshments and their cars. Sugar-coated almonds and chocolate wafers were offered to the estimated 150 guests inside the tent. When the two-tier cream cake was brought in, bordered with cream curls and almonds, Mr. Arafat was true to his aloof image and just gazed at the brown chocolate horse in the middle and the inscriptions that read: "A thousand congratulations for President Abu Ammar" (Arafat's nom-de-guerre) and "may you live 120 years." He then asked his bodyguards to

Nabil Shaath celebrates marriage

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) - Top Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath celebrated his marriage Friday in a festive ceremony at the Orient House, the PLO headquarters in Jerusalem. The Jerusalem celebration was one of the three festivities for the newlyweds, who were married in bride Rajah Abu-Ghazaleh's West Bank hometown of Nablus Thursday. The third celebration was expected to take place in Gaza Sunday. Ms. Abu-Ghazaleh. 33, from a prominent Nablus family, wore a traditional Palestinian robe at the Jerusalem celebration, a red, orange and black robe elaborately embroidered with yellow trimming. "I am here, on the very happy occasion of my marriage, in Jerusalem." Dr. Shaath told his guests. "I am a Gazan married to a Nablusi Palestinian dressed in the... robe that my great grandmother wore in (the southern Israeli town of) Beer Sheba when my great grandfather was the mayor of Beer Sheba. So I somehow feel altogether Palestinian." Besides family and friends, ministers of the Palestinian authority, foreign and local diplomats attended the celebrations, as did his Israeli negotiating partners in the original self-rule negotiations, businessman Yair Hershfeld and Ron Pundak, Israel Television reported. But most Israeli ministers and legislators, including Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, stayed away from the controversial venue in East Jerusalem, which right-wing Israelis want closed because they believe it serves as a Palestinian political presence in Jerusalem. Dovish legislator Yael Dayan, who accepted the invitation, said she did not believe the venue had any political implications. "I think there is no political significance to a wedding at the Orient House," Ms. Davan said on Israel Television. "Nabil Shaath is a good friend of ours. If you ask who is the one who took part with us in making this peace with this government, it was Nabil-Shaath." This was Dr. Shaath's second marriage, after he was widowed 13 years ago when his Egyptian wife died in a car crash. He has three children from his first marriage.

Emir of Qatar to visit S. Arabia

DOHA (AFP) - The new emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad Ibn Khalifa Al Thani, will visit Saudi Arabia Sunday, a senior official here told AFP Friday. The trip will be Sheikh Hamad's first foreign visit since he overthrew his father as Qatar's leader in a bloodless coup on June 27. The senior official, who requested anonymity, did not say how long the emir would stay or what the focus of the discussions would be. Saudi Arabia was quick to recognise the new emir of Qatar. despite a dispute between the two countries concerning their common border. Qatar's foreign minister, Hamad Ibn Jassem Al Thani, said in early July that differences between the two Gulf neighbours would soon be resolved.

Ancient burial vault found in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) - A 2,000-year-old burial vault has been discovered in east Jerusalem, which was annexed by Israel after the 1967 war, Israeli Television reported Friday. Eleven burial chambers were discovered, some used by Jews in the first century AD, others employed by Romans and still others used by Christians in the fifth century. The chambers, in excellent condition, were found several dozen metres underground, outside the city's old walls. Sliding stone doors covered with geometric designs, and inscriptions in Greek and Hebrew, provided access to the chambers. Gold jewellery and glass jars were also discovered by archaeologists. The exact location of the discovery was not revealed for fear of provoking orthodox Jews who oppose the archaeological digs for religious reasons or protests from Palestinians opposed to the Israeli annexation of East Jerusalem.

Iran students protest newspaper ban

TEHRAN (AFP) - Islamic radical students in Iranian universities have protested the closure of a popular left-wing newspaper, calling the government's action "illegal," a students group said Saturday. The authorities banned the Peyam-E-Daneshiju (Student's Message) week ly earlier this week on the grounds that it published 'sensational" articles "incompatible" with Iran's press law. The paper was very popular for its open and stinging criticism of the country's principal leaders, including President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. "To perpetuate its survival, the ruling faction suppresses any act of criticism and constructive suggestion by loyal and revolutionary forces." the Union of Islamic Student Associations said in a fax received by AFP. "The illegal ban against Peyam is designed to intimidate revolutionary figures and to sow a sense of insecurity within intellectual circles in the coun-The student associations plan to organise a rally at Tehran University Sunday to voice their outrage over the ban and "defend their rights." The former managing director of Peyam, Heshmatollah Tabarzadi, is expected to deliver a speech. The ban was seen here as another setback for Islamic liftist newspapers, which are among the few to publish independent information, provoking angry responses from top officials. The weekly was the second radical newspaper to be banned in the Islamic republic this year after the closure of Jahan-E-Islam (World of Islam) in February. Peyam recently published a series of articles exposing a multi-million-dollar embezzlement in a state bank in Tehran, in which the brother of a top official was later implicated.

S. Africa urged to halt oil deal with Iran

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States ukged South Africa to halt a pending oil deal with Iran, charging that Tehran should be deprived of revenues until it stops supporting international terrorism. Though the United States enjoys a "growing... and very good" relationship with South Africa, State Department spokesman David Johnson said Pretoria's intention to store 15 million barrels of Iranian oil was ill-considered. "We believe it is inappropriate to provide Tehran with additional financial resources while the government supports terrorism and pursues weapons of mass destruction," he said. "And we've urged (South Africa) to reconsider its cooperation with Iran." The United States has imposed an embargo against Iran. While it only applies to U.S. citizens or companies, U.S. officials have urged other countries to follow suit. Mr. Johnson's statement comes at a time of strained relations between the United States and South Africa over issues ranging from the Iranian oil deal to intellectual property issues. The United States has recently placed South Africa on a "watch list" for what the State Department called the "serious problems" U.S. firms have encountered in defending intellectual property rights there... Firms have complained that South African companies are using well-known U.S. trademarks in violation of international statutes.

Kuwaitis urge end to Bosnia killings

KUWAIT (AP) - Hundreds of protestors, mostly Islamic fundamentalists, demanded an end to the killing of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The peaceful rally took place on a beach in the evening, after having been announced earlier in mosques at Friday prayer services. Protesters carried anti-U.N. and U.S. placards that read: "Shame on U.S." and "shame on (U.N. Secretary-General Boutros) Ghali." "We are asking the United Nations, the European Union and most of all America; the leaders of the world, to put an end to this savagery," parliament Deputy Khaled Al Adwa told the crowd. The fundamentalist lawmaker noted that the European and American peoples favour the Bosnian Muslims in the conflict with the predominantly Orthodox Christian Serbs. But, he added, "the hands of (Western political figures) are reddened by the blood of our brothers in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Rebel Kurds kill eight in Turkey

ANKARA (R) - Rebel Kurds killed eight civilians, including two children under 10, in an overnight rocket attack on a village in southern Turkey near Syria, the semi-official Anatolian News Agency said Saturday. Six of the dead were from the same family. Four others were F injured in the attack by the rebel Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in Hatay province. Anatolian said. "This is a massacre." said Utku Acun, governor of Hatay, which stands on Turkev's easternmost border with Syria. More \$\overline{\mathbb{S}} than 17,500 people have been killed in Turkey in the PKK's 11-year fight for independence or autonomy in the south-

Turkish woman arrested in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan's Airport Security Force has arrested a Turkish woman after seizing three kilogrammes of heroin from her, the official Associated Press of Pakistan news agency said Saturday. She was held at the Islamabad airport where she was to board a Pakistan International Airlines flight to London via Istanbul, APP said. The agency did not identify the woman, nor did it say when she was arrested.

Retrial could be in favour of maid **UAE** judge:

Zaid Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan AL AIN, United Arab Emirates (R) — The retrial of a 16-year-old Filipina jailed for killing an Arab employer who raped her started Saturday and the chief judge said it could be in the housemaid's employer 34 times. favour. 'It could be in her (Sarah

Balabagan's) favour," the bead of the three-man bench, Chief Judge Ahmad Al Katwani, told reporters. He did not elaborate. The court said a final verdict would be passed on Aug.

UAE President Sheikh

ordered the retrial of Ms. Balabagan who was sentenced in June by a Sharia Islamic Court to seven years in prison on charges of manslaughter for stabbing her

The court also concluded that she had been raped. The prosecution Saturday reiterated a demand that she be sentenced to death for

Ms. Balabagan said both

self-defence and should be

"It was self-defence, I was defending my honour," the maid told reporters through a translator ahead of the retrial. "I accept what I did and I have conditioned myself for whatever the outcome is ... I have no remorse. I did what I had to do," she added. speaking through the window of a locked room adjoining the court.

The original ruling drew inside and outside the court fire from Philippine officials that she killed. Almas who said it was contradictory Mohammad Al Baloushi in and that Ms. Balabagan official earlier told Renters.

should have been freed because according to Islamic Law a woman has the right to defend herself against a rapist to the point of killing him. "All I want to do is be

Kuwait is gradually re-building its 15,000-strong

armed forces following the

Iraqi occupation in which

most of its weaponry and

equipment was looted or des-

troved. It also maintains a

20,000-strong reserve force.

18 hours to wipe out opposi-

tion from units of Kuwait's

army during the 1990 inva-

In a separate development,

Kuwaiti Interior Ministry fi-

gures published Saturday

howed Kuwait deported

6,560 expatriates in 1994,

4,923 of them for violating

Others deported included

people convicted of liquur

offences or crimes involving

immorality or theft, the fi-

gures published in the Arab

Times said. Use of alcohol

other than for medical pur-

poses is banned in Kuwait.

In Kuwait, expatriates con-

victed of a range of crimes

including residency violations

are usually deported follow-

ing payment of fines or com-

Foreigners, most of them

Iraq and Asian guest work-

ers, make up one million of

the Gulf state's total 1.8 mil-

committed in Kuwait in 1994

rose 24 per cent to 18,969, of

which 5,622 or 29 per cent

were felonies and 11,654 or

61 per cent were misde-

meanours. The ministry fi-

gures gave no further break-

The number of crimes

pletion of jail terms.

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residency laws.

Iraq's army took only 12 to

freed," said Ms. Balabagan, her head covered by an Islamic-style black veil. The previous verdict was cancelled by Sheikh Zaid

who wants "to be doubly sure that she gets a fair trial... It doesn't mean the previous judges were wrong or that there should necessarily be hope (for her-freedom)." an

New Arab diplomats shy away from Israeli embrace

TEL AVIV (AP) — When israel and the PLO signed a peace agreement two years ago, Israelis had high hopes that normal relations with Arab states were just around the corner after decades of isolation.

But it hasn't worked out that way. Despite an initial flurry of contacts with moderate Arab regimes, the anticipated cultural and trade relations have been slow in com-

ing.
The main reason appears to be Syria. Israeli officials say President Hafez Assad persuaded other Arab leaders not to upgrade relations with Israel until there was progress in Israel-Syria talks.

Arab reserve is evident in the low profile maintained by representatives of Jordan and Morocco, the two Arab countries that have established diplomatic ties with the Jewish

state recently. "I don't want to be a celebrity." said Jordan's Ambassador Marwan Muasher, speaking in the beachfront Tel Aviv hotel suite that has served as a remporary embassy since last

December. Dr. Muasher acknowledged that he does already the highest profile remains

JORDAN TELEVISION

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have some Israeli friends. But while he predicted the Jewish state would one day past decade. Through good-natured TV be accepted in the region, he

war would first have to be overcome. "There is an overeagerness on the part of the Israeli public to normalise relations with Jordan," he said. "This is not matched by a similar one in the Jordanian public."

tell the psychological barners

brought on my decades of

Diplomats at the Moroccan interest office, located in an apartment building on Tel Aviv's fashionable Hamedina Square, were reluctant to discuss relations despite brisk Israeli tourism to their North African country. Consul Saeed Aminzou

volunteered only that 100 visas are issued each day. "So you see, we are really too busy for interviews, smiled. When pressed, Mr. Aminzou, in his 30s, termed Israel "a nice mix of cul-

"I have been to good res-taurants with my colleagues," he added, apologising that he could not offer a business card and rising to indicate the brief meeting was over.

The Arab diplomat with

Mohammad Bassiouni. Egypt's ambassador for the

appearances and wellattended parties, Mr. Bassiouni has helped chip away at many Israelis' lingering distrust of Arabs. But despite 16 years of peace. Israeli-Egyptian relations remain a one-way street, with few Egyptians travelling to Israel either for tourism or busi-

Israel's continuing isolation suggests that the idea of a "new Middle East" promoted by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was premature.

In the wake of the September 1993 Israel-PLO accord, Israeli leaders were feted by King Hassan II in Morocco. They were also openly welcomed in Tunis, where Israeli jets had bombed PLO Headquarters in 1985.

Within months leaders and business delegations were touring Kuwait, Oman and Gulf emirates. Officials in Israel disclosed plans for a natural gas pipeline from the Gulf to Israel. The first regional conference attended by Israel was held in Moroc-

The momentum fizzled,

largely because Syria made it clear to other Arab states that normalisation was a bargaining chip that should be withheld until Israel returns land --- especially the Golan Heights, to Syria.

Dr. Muasher said what is holding Arabs back is the unfinished business in the peace process: Israeli peace with Syria and Lebanon, and a final settlement that resolves Arab claims to Jeru-

Arab states have reason to pay attention to Syria's wishes. Damascus hosts a dozen radical anti-peace groups and has in the past used violence and threats to veto policies that it opposes.

Most Arab states have ended the boycott of companies doing business with Israel, but direct trade with Israel is limited. Jordan has a small economy, and only recently opened its borders. Trade only amounts to about \$80 million a year with Egypt and \$100 million with Morocco, most through third parties.

"We have passed the point of no return but to see real fruits will take time," said Dan Katarivas of the Israeli Trade Ministry.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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14:90 The Flintstones
14:30 The Mighty Jungle
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15:30 Movie Magic Anglican Church Tel. 630R51, Tel. 62R543. Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331. an Orthodox Church Tel. Children's Programme — Spirou 17:30 Li Marche Du Siecel St. Enbraim Church Tel. 771751. Amman International Church Tel. 652526. News in French Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: German-speaking Evangelical Con-gregation Tcl. 684195 The Latter-Day Saints Tcl. 654932 Church of Nazarene Tcl.675691. The Evangelical Local Church in Tomorrow's World The Bold and the Beautiful The Hidden Room Tel. 811295 23:59 Grace Under Fire

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CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifich, Tcl. 810740

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St. Joseph Church Tcl. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

WEATHER PRAYER TIMES Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. Dhuhr

Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with winds north-westerly moderate. In Agaba. winds will be portherly moderate and seas calm.

17/30 Aqaba 25 / 37

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30. Aqaba 37, Humidity

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS **NIGHT DUTY**

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Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555 Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275 Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (02)247101 AQABA: Princess Hava Hospital (03)314111 FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA

INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORT This information is supplied by

Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia In-ternational Airport Tel. (18)53200-5, where it should always he veri-ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) (Terminal 1) **45:38** ...,.., Bangkok (RJ) Jeddah (RJ) 99:36 | Jeddah (KJ) 99:55 | Lurraca (RJ) 10:65 | Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ) 10:10 | Dubai, Atu Dhabi (RJ) Aqaha (RJ)

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DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) **Flights 06:2**5 Madrid (RJ) 96:40 Beirut (RJ) Aqaba (RJ)

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Cucumbers (small) 280 / 180
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AMMAN dan's opposition urday voices nation of Minied States Marzouk, 724 cal wing to Islamic Steat demanded release A statement which was made the Jordan Trees that Abu Mara and was part of a securit kraeli exnes under fighting terminal The statement :--arrest resilience of the ann's continued in

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Home News

Jordan, Israel soon to sign trade agreement

covered with geometrial Hebrew, prong. Hery and glass jars. The exact location of covoking one. *AMMAN (J.T.) —Jordan and Israel are expected to sign a trade agreement in the the exact location of the form of provoking only gical digs for relations opposed to the lie coming few weeks to prepare for a free exchange of goods after Jordan passed a law ending the boycon of Israel, according to Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb.

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In a statement quoted Saturday by Al Dustour daily, the minister said that Jordanian and Israeli teams are currently involved in finalising the terms of the agreement which is expected to provide for an exemption of customs duty on some prod-

Israel has tentatively agreed to give Jordanian products preferential treatment in trade but details on this agreement are still under discussion by the two sides, the minister said.

With the end of the boycott on Israel, Jordanian products will have new markels, an added benefit to the national economy, he said. Responding to a question

about the prospect of setting up a free trade zone between the two sides. Mr. Abul Rugheb said that this subject was not under consideration at present and that discussions on this matter would be lengthy and could take place after the flow of goods has been monitored between the two sides and and after rigorous examination on the feasibility of such a project.

As for Jordanian-Palestinian trade, the minister said that agreements on trade exchanges between the two sides was in force but that the two sides may, on occasions, introduce amendments to their agreements



Ali Abul Ragheb

due to developments in trade exchanges and in consideration of the needs of both par-

Premier chairs meeting of economic council, stresses responsibility in promoting investments

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Saturday presided over a meeting by the Economic Consultative Council (ECC) to review prepara-tions for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference due to be held here in October.

A statement following the meeting, which was held at the Prime Ministry, said that the council discussed a Jordanian working paper to be reviewed by the confer-ence's participants.

The statement said that the Prime Minister stressed the common responsibility of the public and private sector in promoting the country's readiness for foreign and Arab investments.

Speaking at the meeting was Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb, who briefed the council on official preparations for the con-

Mr. Abul Ragheb said that the decision to hold the conference in Amman was taken at the Casablanca conference which set up a committee grouping Asian and European countries as well as the United States and Canad to help organise the

conference. He said that at least 1,000 participants are expected to take part in the conference and that consultations are under way among the various participating countries over the principles which will be contained in the Amman Declaration.

The Amman Declaration is expected to underline the importance of regional projects, the creation of the

submitted to the conference, the minister said. The first includes 27 projects estimated at a cost of \$3.4 billion mostly covering infrastructure schemes to be implemented by the private and

mittee has decided to present four main topics to the public sectors. These projects were prepared by the Ministry of These topics centre on economy and infrastructure. Planning in cooperation with commerce and industry, financing and investments

Middle East Development

Bank and the formation of a

regional tourist council as

well as a regional business-

A Jordanian steering com-

and the economic environ-

ment, Mr. Abul Ragheb said.

of Jordanian schemes to be

There are four categories

men's council.

Amman conference.

the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and cover energy, industry, mining, transport, communications. tourism, water and environment secThe second category includes 65 Jordanian projects covering small and medium-size industries prepared by the Ministry of

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Saturday presides over a meeting of the Economic Consultative Council at

which preparations for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference were reviewed (Petra photo)

The third focuses on international financing for the development of the Jordan Rift Valley. And the fourth category includes projects which are usually undertaken by the private sector.

Industry and Trade.

Mr. Abul Ragheb said that Jordan will submit regional projects in coordination with

Egypt, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and Israel.

According to the minister. Jordan has sent invitations to prominent and key people from the private sectors of several countries.

The Economic Consultative Council is made up of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh. several cabinet members and representatives of the private

Parties condemn Abu Marzouk arrest. claim U.S. hostility still apparent

AMMAN (Petra) - Jordan's opposition parties Saturday voiced their condemnation of the arrest in the United States of Mousa Abu Marzouk, head of the political wing of the militant Islamic group, Hamas, and demanded his immediate release.

A statement, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times, charged that Abu Marzouk's arrest was part of a plot planned and carried out by American security authorities with Israeli occupation authorities under the pretext of fighting terrorism.

The statement said that the arrest reaffirms Washington's continued favourable bias towards the Zionist entity. America's hostile attitude towards Arab and Islamic nations and their support of Zionist aggression on Palestinian people and their occupation of Arab

Palestine. This hostile action against Palestinians, asserts once again the American adminis-tration's total disregard for the freedom of other nations Israel. and Washington's determination to deprive them of their legitimate rights, the statement said.

The statement also said that the American administration is making a mockery of international law for the purpose of currying favour with Zionist organisations which continue to control American policies in matters connected to the Arab-Zionist conflict and the issues of

the Arab nation. The arrest of Abu Marzouk is bound to inflame the feelings of Arabs and Muslims and would incite angry reac-tions against the United States, the statement

Abu Marzouk detained 10 days ago by immigration officials in New York. Israel issued a warrant for his arrest and said it would seek his extradition.

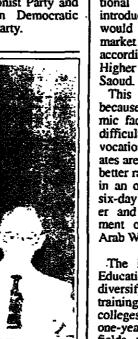
The statement said that the undersigned appeal to all humanitarian organisations which defend human rights, all political parties, associations and various organisagions around the world to release of Abu Marzouk and help stop his extradition to

The leader's arrest and extradition to the occupation authorities, the statement continued, would result in further instability that would not be confined to the Palestinian arena but would extend to the Arab and international spheres.

It said that a just, durable and comprehensive peace in the region can never be established by depriving its peoples of their rights, and that neither can it survive by arresting freedom fighters in a legitimate struggle for freedom and accusing them of acts of terrorism.

The statement called for the establishment of peace by putting an end to the occupation of Arab lands and the restoration of all the legitimate rights of the, Palestinian people. The statement was signed

by the following parties:
The Islamic Action Front, the National Action Front, the Jordanian Democratic People's Party, the Democratic Arab Party, the Progressive Arab Ba'ath Party, the Constitutional Arab Jordanian Front, the Jordanian Socialist Arab Barath Party, the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party, the Jordanian Communist Party, the Jordanian Democratic People's Unionist Party and the Jordanian Democratic Progressive Party.



Ministry of Education Secretary General Izzat Jaradat (centre) Saturday presides over a workshop organised by the ministry at the Teachers Club to discuss means of assessing students' performance (Petra photo)

Ministry shifts to promoting vocational specialisations to serve local job market requirements— Rateb Saoud

AMMAN (Petra) - The Ministry of Higher Education is currently reducing the number of students accepted to academic curricula at the country's colleges and is instead expanding its enrollment of students in vocational specialisations and introducing new majors that would meet local labour requirements, according to Minister of Higher Education Rateb

This policy was adopted because graduates of academic faculties are finding it difficult to get jobs, while vocational training graduates are being employed at a better rate, said the minister in an opening address to a six-day symposium on higher and advanced management of education in the Arab World.

The Ministry of Higher Education has also begun diversifying vocational training at the community colleges and introducing a one-year training course in fields which are in high demand in the local market, Mr. Saoud said.

While noting that major changes in technology and science education have been achieved in Arab educational institutions over the past few years, he said it must be admitted that the Arab World still faces an educational crisis of different forms.

Mr. Saoud said the devel-



Participants from around the Arab World Saturday attend the opening of a six-day symposium on higher and advanced management of education in the region. The symposium was opened by Minister of Higher Education Rateb

opments in the fields of science and technology have presented new challenges to educational institutions but it is regrettable to say that a crisis exists in the form of inability of these institutions to adapt their educational and vocational training programmes to the actual needs

of the local labour markets, he added.

Referring to the sympo-sium, Dr Saoud said that it has been organised to enable educationists and specialists to diagnose the problems suggest solutions. and adding that without human resources development the Arab World can not dream of attaining socio-economic development .

He said that despite the great number of universities in the Arab World the region's countries have not yet risen to the occasion and failed so far to meet the requirements of the commu-

Delegates representing Jordan, Palestine, Yemen. the United Arab Emirates, Syria, Iraq, Libya and Algeria are participating in the symposium, which is being held at the Jerusalem Hotel

NEWS IN BRIEF

RJ staff to get free cargo benefit

AMMAN (Petra) — Chief Executive Officer of Royal Jordanian (RJ) Nader Dahabi has issued a decision allowing RJ personnel to transport various quantities of cargo aboard RI planes for free. Executive Director of RJ's Air Cargo Mohammad Hashem Murtadi said the decision includes all RJ personnel, depending on their period of service. He said employees can use this privilege only once during the coming five-year period. Mr. Murtadi said those who spent 5-10 years working for RJ are entitled to transport 100 kilogrammes of cargo free of charge over the coming five years. He said those who served RI for 10-15 years are entitled to transport 200 kilogrammes of cargo during the same period. Those who served the air carrier for 15-20 years, he said, can transport up to 300 kilogrammes of goods. And those who worked for RI for more than 20 years are entitled to transport up to 500 kilogrammes of goods.

19,750 tourists visit Petra in July

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 19,750 tourists visited Petra in July, including 14,850 foreigners and 4,900 Jordanians. Only half that number visited the ancient Nabataean city during July of 1994. Officials said the fees collected from the visitors totalled JD 305,000 during the month.

College dean heads for Cairo conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Dean of the Princess Rahma Social Services College Faisal Gharaibeh on Saturday left Amman for Cairo to participate in a conference on the Islamic role in social services which opened there Saturday evening. Dr. Gharaibeh said the conference, organised jointly by the International Islamic Thought Institute and the International Social Services Institute, will discuss social services from an Islamic perspective and means of developing curricula at social services institutes.

CDD responds to 780 emergencies last week

AMMAN (Petra) - The Civil Defence Department (CDD) dealt with 780 different emergencies last week, most of which involved first aid cases. During the same week, the CDD reported 117 fires, most of them in forest areas. The department also reported 21 rescue cases and 16 deaths, saying seven resulted from sickness and nine from accidents which included road accidents, electric shocks, drowing and festive shooting at weddings. The department issued a warning urging citizens not to use firearms in weddings.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

"Honey, I shrunk the kids," at the American Center at 5:00

EXHIBITIONS

Paintings by Aneta Traikova at Alia Art Gallery

"Exhibition of Chinese Products '95," at Al Bassam Hall, King Abdullah Gardens.

Handicrafts and souvenirs at the Amman Citadel (9:00) a.m.-6:00 p.m.)

Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.

Orphans' Fund reaches JD 33.2m in capital

AMMAN (Petra) - The Orphans' Fund, an organisation established 21 years ago to protect the finances of young orphans in the country, said Saturday that its total capital by the end of 1994 stood at JD 33,215,751, which brought in a total revenue of JD 2,457,015, according to the fund's director, Mohammad Kreishan. Most of the funds are invested in development and economic projects and are directed towards increasing the financial capital of

orphans, Mr. Kreishan said. Funds are also used to buy shares in several major shareholding companies and

in the purchase of land. In his report on the fund's operations in the past two years, Mr. Kreishan said that funds have also been invested in housing projects, agricultural, commercial and industrial schemes.

Lately, money from the fund has gone towards investment in small size projects that help generate employment, according to Mr. Kreishan.

This type of project entails buying equipment for handicrafts and farmers to help beneficiaries kick-start their business.

Mr. Kreishan said that funds are being invested and revenues collected in line with Islamic law, rather than through commerical banks for interest on deposits.

Australia to lobby Europe against French nuclear tests

SYDNEY (R) — The Australian government upped the ante in its row with France over nuclear testing Saturday, announcing a parliamentary delegation would go to Europe to seek support against France's nuclear poli-

In an open letter to the nation published in several major Australian newspapers, Prime Minister Paul Keating said the French government jeopardised hopes that the world would emerge from the cold war without a nuclear shadow hanging over

He said Pacific Islands Minister Gordon Bilney would lead a delegation to Europe in September to ensure Canberra's opposition to France's tests was fully understood.

The delegation aimed to turn European opposition to the French tests into political opposition. Mr. Bilney said.

'It's a matter of building up and reinforcing the coalition of opposition to this decision by France, by talking to the main players in Europe." Mr. Bilney said in a

radio interview. Another delegation, led by the president of the Austramembers of the European Parliament to discuss France's plans for eight underground nuclear tests in French Polynesia from September to May, Mr. Keating said.

'A central aim of our policy is to work with this international coalition, not only in our opposition to French tests, but also on wider nuclear issues," Mr. Keating

He said Australia was negotiating with Japan to seek a United Nations resolution calling for a complete and immediate end to nuclear testing and that Australia would also make an oral submission to the International Court of Justice to register formal opposition to French

Canberra and Paris have traded diplomatic swipes and warning of trade reprisals after the French government's June decision to resume the tests triggered a campaign of Australian anti-French protests, public outcry and official condemnation.

Australian protests against French nuclear tests flared Saturday to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of the Japanese city of Hiroshima

In Brissbane, peace and environmental activists built a large white plastic mushroom cloud to symbolise the threat of nuclear destruction, while rallies were held in cities as far-flung as Alice Springs in the centre of the country to Darwin in the

Reflecting an anti-French mood in the country, which has seen business and diplomatic ties between the two nations tumble since June, several newspapers ran highly critical cartoons Saturday against French President Jacques Chirac.

The Australian newspaper's cartoonist depicted Mr. Chirac leading a parade of French military officers celebrating the nuclear tests while passing the sombre and gium faces of people at a shrine remembering the

anniversary of Hiroshima. Mr. Keating said Sunday's anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima was an appropriate moment to urge governments globally to strengthen efforts to bring about an end to nuclear test-

"Hiroshima is a most powerful reminder that we must not waste that oppor-

tunity," he said.
The U.S. nuclear bombing of the Japanese city of Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945. killed 140,000 people on impact. A second bomb on Nagasaki three days later killed 70,000 on impact. Australian Foreign Minis-

ter Gareth Evans denied Saturday that his country wanted to drive France out of the Pacific and said Paris bad made the charge to divert attention from its nuclear tests in French Polynesia. In an interview with the French Le Figaro, Mr. Evans accused the French government of bluffing by announc-

against Australia that were less than met the eye. French government spokesman Francois Baroin had questioned the sincerity of Australia's indignation over President Jacques Chirac's decision to conduct a final seven or eight under-

ing ecnonmic measures

ground tests in the South Pacific, saying that some countries wanted to force France out of the region.

"I categorically reject that interpretation," Mr. Evans said. "France plays a very positive role in the Pacific. notably in development aid. Neighbourly relations between Australia and the French Pacific territories are

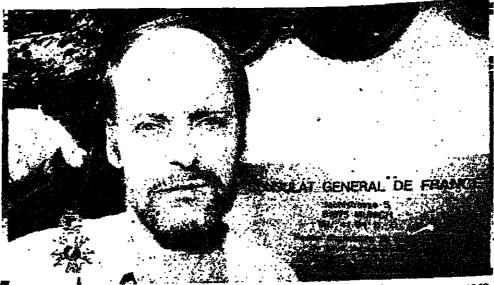
excellent."
He said Australia realised that independence movements were in a minority in New Caledonia and Frnch Polynesia and had no grounds to lecture France on the issue of independence,

"Mr. Baroin is using a scarecrow to distract attention from what should be the real debate. If public opinion, in Australia or elsewhere, is so hostile, it's for a very simple reason: President Chirac's decision is a bad decision," he said.

The minister said France's announcement that it would re-examine coal and uranium purchases from Australia was largely bluff.

"Paris approach on purchases of Australian uranium is perfectly cynical," he said, noting that France would pocket a saving of about \$20 million if it bought uranium on the world market rather than respect a long-term contract with Canberra.

Since Australia was the world's biggest coal exporter, cancellation of French contracts would hae only a marginal effect, he said.



Dietrich Hahn, grandson of Nobel Prize winner and discoveror of the nuclear fission Otto Hahn, holds the Order of the French Legion of Honour which was presented to his grand-father in 1959, in front of French consulate in Munich. Dietrich Hahn, 49. publicist and the

only grandson of the chemist who died in 1968, gave back the order and certificate to the French consul here to forward it to French President Jacques Chirac in protest against France's decision to resume nuclear tests in South Pacific (AFP photo)

British-born actress Ida Lupino dies

LOS ANGELES (R) --British-born actress Ida Lupino, who starred in more than 60 films before carving out a pioneering role as a director, died of a stroke after a battle with colon cancer. She was

Her spokeswoman said Lupino died Thursday night at her home in the Los Angeles suburb of Burbank with her sister and daughter at her side as well as several friends.

The actress had been ill for some time and had been released from hospital several days earlier, spokeswoman Mary Ann Anderson told Reuters.

The thrice-married Lupino is survived by her daughter Bridget Duff and sister Rita Lupino. She was most recently married to Howard Duff who died in 1990, seven years

after tehy divorced.

True to life, she found fame playing headstrong and ambitious characters in a string of Warner Bros Melod-rams such as 1941's High Sierra opposite Humphrey Bogart and 1943's The Hard Way, for which she was named best actress by the New York film critics.

However, she was never nominated for an Academy Award. Overall she considered her Hollywood acting ring to herself as a "poor man's Bette Davis."

By 1948, when she became an American citizen, she had largely given up acting to focus on producing an direct-

She will probably be best remembered as one of Hollywood's pioneering women directors, tackling subjects such as rape, polio, bigamy and illegitimacy. She often wrote the screenplays and served as producer as well, a rare feat for women in 1950s Hollwyood.

Lupino was born in the London suburb of Brixton in February 1918, into an acting family that originally hailed from Italy and emigrated to England in the 17th century. Her father was comedian Stanley Luping and her mother actress Connie Emerald. Her first role was a Lolita-type character aged 15 in Allan Dwan's Her First

She arrived in Hollywood in 1933 playing minor ingenue roles on the Paramount lot until she got out of her contract after a brief bout of

She came to the critics' attention in that studio's The Light That Failed opposite Ronald Colman in 1939. Warner Bros Signed her to a contract for a half-dozen years during which she turned in several memorable performances. A pianist, she was able to show off her under-used musical talents in such films as Thank Your Lucky Stars and The Man I

Love.
With second husband Collier Young (she had previoul-sy been married to actor Louis Hayward), she set up a production company, Emerald Pictures, in 1949. She wrote scripts and soon began directing, making her official directing debut in 1950's RKO-released The Young Lovers, a movie about a young dancer afficted by

In the late 1950s she starred for three seasons in the sitcom Mr. Adams And Eve, as a Hollywood star who frequently scraps with her actor husband, played by Howard Duff. The two separated in real life in 1972.

She remained a prolific director and sometimes producer on television with more than 100 episode assignments ranging from The Untouchables to Gilligan's Island.

Lupino recently spent six months in a nursing home for physical therapy, but, according to Hollywood trade paper daily Variety, she was in talks to return to acting last May.

Forgotten forceps found in man's belly after 10 years

CAIRO (AFP) - An Egyptian cab driver complaining of intense stomach pains was discovered to have a 20 centimetre-long (8-inch) pair of forceps in his gut left by an operation 10 years earlier, a paper reported here. Mahmud Ahmad Abdul Salam was first operated in 1985 for kidney stones in a private clinic in Cairo, the government daily Al Ahram reported in its early Saturday edition. Six years later he was struck with renewed pain which he treated unsuccessfully for four years with painkillers. When he finally reported to a hospital, X-rays revealed the instrument forgotten in his stomach cavity had destroyed one of his kidneys. Abdul Salam is now waiting for an operation to remove the forceps, the pap-

French actress charged with drug possession

PARIS (AP) — Sultry French actress Beatrice Dal-le, convicted of shoplifting from a jewellery store three years ago, was charged with possession of heroin and cocaine, and ordered to see a doctor, Miss Dalle, 30, was charged with "complicity in use and passing on drugs." She had been arrested Tuesday evening at her apartment with four other people, two of them foreigners in France illegally. Police first arrested two suspected drug dealers on the ground floor of the building, then discovered a few grammes of the drugs in Miss Dalle's apartment along with material used to "cut, or prepare heroin. But she denied she was dealing in the drugs, and said she had the substances for her own use. Miss Dalle created a sensation with the steamy character she played in her cinematic debut nine years ago iin 37.2 Le Matin. She was convicted in January 1992 for shoplifting a necklace from a. Paris jeweller after being caught in the act, and given a suspended prison sentence of six months and fined 20,000 francs (\$4,200). She said at the time she took it because she was depressed. She has just finished filming Desire with director Bernard Murat co-star Jean-Paul Belmondo.

Danish national gets taken twice by 'prostitute'

OLOMBO (AFP) Lankan man posing as a female prostitute had sex with a Danish national and turned out to be a straight thief, police said Friday. The tourist from Denmark had picked up the "prostitute". from ana intersection in the capital Thursday but discovered when they undressed that "she" was actually a man, police said. However, the man persuaded the Dane to go to bed with him. The, following morning, the prostitute had vanished with his camera, watch and other valuables. Police said many thieves have taken up to prostitution and are usually disguised as women.

Woman, 43, gives birth without knowing she was pregnant

ANCONA, Italy (AFP) — A 43-year-old woman who gave birth to a baby weighing more than three kilogrammes (6.6 pounds) was unaware she had been pregnant, hospital sources said. The woman, who already had two children, arrived in the moming complaining of severe pain in her belly and gave birth shortly thereafter in the hospital emergency room, said a source at the Chiaravalle Hospital here. The woman said that she had only gained four or five kilos (nine to 12 pounds) in the previous nine months and had continued to menstruate. She had attributed any changes to hormonal imbalances due to

NEW DELHI (AP) - A woman complained to police

Simpson prosecutor reveals new DNA tests; judge questions admissibility

LOS ANGELES (AP) - An O.J. Simpson prosecutor unveiled new DNA results Friday tentatively linking Simpson's blood and that of murder victim Ronald Goldman to Simpson's Bronco. But jurors may never hear about

The judge said the tests, which bolster other evidence now under defence attack, were started too late and might not be admissible in Simpson's trial.

'I still have the concern about the delay in the starting of the testing and whether or not any of that RFLP results will be admissible before this jury," said Superior Court Judge Lance Ito. "That's an issue that has yet to be re-

The judge's remarks indicated he permitted the prosecution to go ahead with RFLP tests on mixed blood samples from the Bronco earlier this year, but the California Department of Justice Lab delayed starting testing "for a significant period of time, approaching two months.

Some RFLP tests can take up to three months or more to complete, and the prosecution's results have dribbled in throughout the case. Many were presented to jurors last spring, while others, such as those on the Bronco blood, are ongoing.

Defence attorney Barry Scheck said the defence has had no access to the new tests and argued they should not be

Prosecutor Rockne Harmon countered that RFLP testing, considered more reliable than the PCR process, takes longer and results are only now appearing gradually in chemical strips.

We have now produced a three-probe RFLP match consistent with the blood of Mr. Simpson and the blood of Ronald Goldman," Mr. Harmon told the judge. "We will continue to probe it.

'That's what they fear," he said of the defence.

Simpson, a former football star who stayed in the celebrispotlight as an actor and sports commentator, has pleaded innocent to the June 12, 1994, murders of his exwife Nicole Brown Simpson and Goldman, one of her

Mr. Harmon and fellow prosecutor George Clarke wanted to use the results in a hypothetical question to defence witness John Gerdes. who has dismissed PCR tests performed on the same Bronco blood as untrustworthy due to contamination and

sloppy evidence handling. Judge Ito refused to allow the question and suggested that the new tests could be attacked on similar grounds as PCR: that the blood had been exposed to the environment for so long that it was degraded and possibly contaminated by the time it reached the laboratory.

put Dr. Gerdes through a rigorous cross-examination but drew only a few concessions from the calm, metho-

dical microbiologist.

Dr. Gerdes acknowledged that some blood samples could not have been contaminated by sloppy Los Angeles police technicians because the DNA material was extracted by two outside laboratories, Cellmark Diagnosites and the State Justice Department.

Dr. Gerdes repeatedly tried to interject that police could have contaminated the samples before the DNA was minalists soaked up blood on swatches at the crime scene.

Mr. Clarke pointed out that the samples from Simpson's Bronco were collected not by rank and file technicians but by the LAPD's lab

"That may be," said Dr. Gerdes, but he added, "in my opinion none of the individuals are collecting the materials in a manner that a microbiologist would consider safe. They're all too ris-

Mr. Clarke objected to many of Dr. Gerdes' answers as non-responsible, and the judge ordered the jury to disregard several of them. Judge Ito expressed impatience at Dr. Gerdes' tone, snapping at one point, "doctor, answer the ques-

Japan still divided over cabinet

TOKYO (AFP) - Key. decided Saturday whether to agree to stay on in their posts as requested by Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama in his planned cabinet reshuf-

Yohei Kono, who has been minister, told the Japan to think about various things. not only about myself, before making a final decision."

pledged to carry out the reshuffle in a bid to shore-up his shaky coalition following its poor showing in July 23 upper house elections.

as foreign minister in order to concentrate on securing his re-election as party leader in the LDP's presidential race in

WASHINGTON (AFP) -

President Bill Clinton sought

reshuffle

fle, it was reported Saturday.

asked to remain as foreign Broadcasting Corp. "I'd like Mr. Murayama has

The cabinet met late into

the night Friday to discuss the reshuffle. Mr. Kono, head of the powerful Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), had originally agreed to Mr. Murayama's request to stay on but then changed his mind and asked for time to reflect. It is widely believed that Mr. Kono wants to step down

Andreotti takes to stage as trial looms called "the fox" by detrac-

Affaire.

FERENTINO, Italy (R) — Former Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, who goes on trial on mafia charges next month warmed up for the ino the stage as a lawyer defending an authoritarian medieval

The seven-times prime minister and current life senator was the main attraction at a Friday night theatre production that recounted the stormy pointificate of Pope Boniface VIII, who reigned from 1294 to 1303.

Pone Boniface is one of the most controversial popes in history because he is said to have agitated behind the scenes to force the abdication of his predecessor Celestine V, and to have bribed cardinals to elect him.

In the Divine Comedy, the poet Dante branded Pope Boniface "the fox" and consigned him to hell. Mr. Andreotti, a political wheeler-dealer for almost half a century, was also been

Pope Boniface's pontificate was marked by a struggle with emerging European monarchies France, over the extent of papal authority on the conti-

After actors read from the ' Divine Comedy and sang medieval madrigals, Mr. Andreotti, sitting on a red damask backless throne with a papal robe and rod at his feet, delivered a spirited hour-long defence of. Pope

Another senator defended Sciarra Colonna, a Italian nobleman aligned with France who tried to arrest the

Mr. Andreotti won his case when a jury made up of an historian, a journalist and a Roman Catholic monsignor ruled that while Pope Boniface was no saint. Sciarra Colonna was worse because he used treachery and violence to try to depose a Pope.

whether the "victory" had helped him develop a defence strategy for his upcoming mafia trial. He brushed off a reporter who asked if he was preparing psychologically for when he goes on trial in Sicily on charges of having been the

"Let's not mix the sacred

with the profane," Mr.

Andreotti, an expert on church and medieval history,

told a reporter who asked

mafia's chief protector for decades. Mr. Andreotti has denied all the charges, which are built on testimony of mafia turncoats. He says they are part of a mob plot to punish him for crackdowns on organised crime by the Christian

Democrat-led coalition governments he headed. His judicial troubles did not surface officially at the outdoor theatrical event, part of a summer festival in the rural Ciociaria area south of Rome. But next month's trial

in the Sicilian capital Palermo seemed to hang in the air.

role of money in the political process "a cancer eating at

Goat claimed by 2 people leaves police confused

in a southern Indian city that her neighbour, a butcher, had stolen her pet goat. But the butcher showed a receipt to prove he had bought the animal at a village fair. A police officer confused by the claims, tried to solve it by offering to pay the butcher and asking him to return the animal to the woman, the Press Trust of India news agency reported Friday.

Trinidad capital under state of emergency amid political fracas

PORT-OF-SPAIN (AFP) — The capital of the tiny Carib-bean Republic of Trinidad and Tobago was under a state of emergency and the speaker under house arrest amid a widening political fracas pitting the government against the legislature.

Legislators were still debating late Friday a measure, which was expected to pass by a simple majority, to re-move the speaker of the House of Representatives from his post.

Prime Minister Patrick Manning declared the threemonth state of emergency Thursday on the capital city of some 300,000 residents and placed Speaker Occah Seapaul under house arrest.

Mr. Manning feared Ms. Seapaul, a woman who was chosen for the legislative post four years ago, was trying to whittle away the government's majority in parliament

by suspending ministers. Ms. Seapaul's brother, Public Utilities Minister Ralph Maraj, resigned from the cabinet earlier in the day to protest his sister's treatment, although he retained

his parliament seat.

Residents went about their business as usual and no restrictions were imposed on the press despite the unfolding political drama and pounding rain. No arrests, demonstrations, or protests were re-

The state of emergency sharply curtails individual liberties, bans public meetings, and empowers police to detain suspects indefinitely without charge.

In a statement to parliament before debate began, Attorney-General Keith Sobion accused Ms. Seapaul of "arbitrary and capricious" actions and said the state of emergency aimed "to prevent the systematic overthrow of the duly elected govern-

"The government is concerned now that we as a country shall return to a normal state in the shortest possible time," he said, pledging to uphold democra-

"It is no part of our tradition that any person or group of persons... should seek to control or everturn our parliament and our other democratic institutions," Mr. So-

"Any such action must be firmly resisted by right-thinking citizens." he said. Police also tried unsuccessfully to arrest Yasin Abu Bakr, head of the black Muslim separatist group Jamaat-Al Muslimeen, for making

Mr. Abu Bakr led a failed

threats against the govern-

coup here in July 1990 in which 27 people died. The struggle between the prime minister and the House speaker began in June, when Ms. Seapaul claimed a mechanic had swindled some

\$17.000 from her. Ms. Seapaul took the matter to court, where the government claimed she committed perjury. The case was dismissed because her evidence was uncorroborated by independent evidence.

The government asked Ms.

Seapaul, the first female

speaker in Trinidad and

Tobago, to resign on grounds

her credibility had been irre-

parably damaged.

to turn up the pressure Friday for political reform, announcing plans to require lobbyists on the federal government to register and disclose who they represent.

The initiative was clearly calculated to draw a contrast

with the Republicans in Congress, whom Mr. Clinton accused of dragging their feet on campaign finance and lobbying reform while handing over the legislative process to lobbyists. "Ďelay, debate and divi-

sion, that's the same old thing." Mr. Clinton said of Republicans in the House of Representatives. "They won't put lobbyists in their proper place in our governmental structure.

At Mr. Clinton's side as he spoke in the White House Oval Office were historian Doris Kearns Goodwin and John Gardner, a former cabinet secretary and founder of Common Cause, the liberal good government group. They were invited to the

tical reforms as "the kind of people I would appoint" to a bi-partisan commission on political reform agreed to in late June, Mr. Clinton said. . The idea of a commission

White House to discuss poli-

to remove the issue from the partisan battleground was sprung by a member of the audience at a picnic in New Hampshire, during an impromptu dehate between Mr. Clinton and House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

The two men shook hands on the idea, but Mr. Clinton complained that even though he wrote a letter to Mr. Gingrich putting forth his ideas on how to do it "that moment of optimism gave way to five weeks of silence. Asked about it at a news conference, Mr. Gingrich

said his work to overhaul Medicare, the state insurance for the elderly, was all he had time for until the fall. "Now, if you just want some PR gimmick to get up and bash somebody, you can do that in a half hour. But if

you want to seriously get to

real campaign reform, it

takes time. "We have not had the mental energy and the time this summer to do anything except the appropriations bills and Medicare." he said. · Mr. Clinton retorted: "It takes no energy at all... All he has to do is what he said he'd do when he shook hands with me — let's set up a

commission. Meanwhile, Mr. Clinton

Clinton announces restrictions on lobbyists said he would issue excecutive orders barring lobbists from dealing with the federal government without disclos-

ing the interests they repre-

"Right now lobbyist can operate in secret. They can lawfully conceal who they work for, what loopholes or contracts or regulations they are seeking to pass, or what actions they are seeking to stop. And lobbying of the executing branch isn't disclosed at all."

Under the new restriction... entities spending mroe than \$20,000 a year on lobbying activities would have to register on a semiannual basis. They would have to give

the name of the lobbyist, say who their client is, the issues they seek to influence, and private a good faith estimate of how much they spend on lobbying the executive and Congress. Mr. Clinton, however, stop

short of taking unilateral

steps on campaign financing

practices on grounds, arguing

that to do so would give the Republicans an unfair advan-The sentiment that the average person is powerless to influence a Washington

dominated by special in-

terests has pervaded recent elections, including the November mid-term elections that swept Republicans into the majority in Con-Mr. Gardner called the

and "a fatal addiction" that many members of congress cannot break. "Americans have always believed in the consent of the governed. It now looks as though we're talking about the consent of the donors."

the vitals of our government

Ms. Kearns Goodwin also said the "soaring power of money within our political process is one of the most damaging forces in our national life."

"Money gets the individuals into the door. Money revises legislation. Money restrains the enforcement of laws. Money has a direct impact on the substance of almost every piece of legislation," she said.

"It is little wonder, the more I think about it, that our citizens are disenchanted with politics and government. This process has corrupted both parties." she said.

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6 pounds) was under the had been pregnant to tall sources said oman, who already had: ildren, arrived in the g complaining of gain in her belly and rth shortly thereafter ospital emergency fi id a source at the Ch ide Hospital here oman said that she had ined four or five kilos 12 pounds) in the prene months and had. nued to menstrust d attributed any change rmonal imhalances is ioat claimed by people leaves olice confused

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Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, two days before the

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony commemorating the



50th anniversary of the atomic bombing on Aug. 6, 1945 (AFP photo)

Hiroshima mayor to give Japan war apology

HIROSHIMA, Japan (R) — In a surprise twist on the 50th anniversary of the world's first atomic bombing, the mayor of Hiroshima plans to break with the tradition Sunday and formally "apologise" for Japan's actions in World

War II. City officials said because of the symbolism of the 50th anniversary and heightened awareness of atomic weapons after France's decision to resume nticlear testing, Mayor Takeshi Hiraoka wanted to make a gesture that would cross national boundaries and persuade the world to abolish nuclear weapons.

They said in using the longshunned word "apology" in reference to Japan's World War II actions, Mr. Hiraoka hoped it would give younger people a better perspective on history and persuade them

against nuclear weapons. Mr. Hiraoka's action is not without some danger because of feared backlash from ultranationalists who believe an apology dishonours the memory of Japan's war dead.

In 1989, a fanatical rightwinger shot and wounded the mayor of Nagasaki who broke another taboo by pub-ficity stating that wartime biggest in Hiroshima's his-Emperor Hitohito bore re-sponsibility for the war.

The Japanese government is still loathe to offer a straightforward apology. In a parliamentary resolution meant to atone for Japan's role in the war adopted last month, the wording used was "deep reflection" not "apolo-

On the bomb itself, most Japanese think the United -States should apologise for the atomic bombs but Americans do not agree, said a media survey released Satur-

day. The TBS-CBS Poll of 3,000 adults in the two countries siad 89 per cent of Japanese felt it was morally wrong to use the bomb and 69 per cent wanted an apology. In the United States, 76 per cent of respondents said there was

on the eve of Sunday's anniversary events. Hiroshima overflowed with peace activists, children and tourists drawn to the place where the bomb dropped at 8:15 a.m. on Aug. 6, 1945, killing 140,000 people on impact and changing the world forever.

The tens of thousands of Japanese and foreigners arriving in the city promised .to make the ceremonies the

tory. For the first time, Hiroshi-

ma invited 20 foreign Abomb survivors from 11 countries to the ceremonies, including a person living in

About 13,000 guests will listen to speeches by Mr. Hiraoka, Prime Minister Comiichi Murayama and representatives of children during the hour-long ceremonies which start at 8:00 a.m. on

The influence on this year's commemoration of the French decision to resume its nuclear testing in the South Pacific in September showed up in the many informal antinuclear events already in progress in the city.

In small marches, prayer recitals and other events, placards in French were evident for the first time.

About 500 activists opposing President Jacques Chirac's decision staged a sit-in at the peace memorial park, including Marie-Francoise Mendez, leader of the French Green Party.

On Friday, Japan's parliament unanimously passed a resolution calling on France and China to halt nuclear tests. The tests, the document said, threaten both the environment and treaties designed to curtail such eryl

Japanese authorities estimate there are still about 300,000 survivors of the atomic bombs that fell on Hiroshima and three days later on Nagasaki, where about 70,000 died on impact.

Nearly 100,000 survivors. most of them ion their 60s and 70s, still live in Hiroshima, now a bustling city of 1.3 million completely rebuilt from the ashes of the atomic

A memorial service was held in Yokohama Saturday for British Commonwealth prisoners of war who died at detention camps in Japan during World War II, Kyodo News Service said,

Some 90 people, including diplomats from Britain, Australia and New Zealand, attended a Christian ritual at the Commonwealth cemetery for war dead, Kyodo said.

Air Force Group Capt. Alan MacGregor of the Brit-ish embassy attended the service, expressing deep gratitude to Japanese promoters for organising the event.

More than 1,700 British

Commonwealth servicemen who died at the detention camps in Japan during the war are buried at the cemet-

Sri Lanka rebels issue death threats to tourists

COLOMBO (Agencies) — A said in a statement. "You are shadowy Tamil militant all lucky." group which claimed responsibility for a car bomb blast at Colombo Airport in June has again threatened to kill toursts and foreign investors in Sri Lanka.

Ellalan Force said it "won't be ready to show any mercy" unless the armed forces stopped "killing Tamils" in the

The letter, which was dated July 30 and reached Reuters Saturday, denounced the current military offensive in the rebel-held Jaffna peninsula and the bombing of a church com-

pound there. It said it would not allow foreign investors, tourists, flights or ships into the country unless the offensive stop-

On Fridy, troops based in territory captured in Operation Leap Forward against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) launched a "limited operation," killing or wounding at least 50 rebels, the military said Saturday.

On Wednesday and Thursday, naval patrol craft attacked 16 Tiger vessels in separate incidents, destroying six of them, the military said. Ellalan Force in its letter

"vehemently condemned" allegations it was connected to the LTTE, which has been at war fighting for a separate homeland in the north and east since 1983. The group has many times

warned foreigners to keep out of the country and on June 9 took responsibility for a failed car-bomb attempt at

Due to a technical failure. the bomb didn't go off," it

It threatened to set off "massive bombs" in Colombo last month unless a

commission was set up to investigate the killing of Tamils in the east of the island. A few small explosions were recorded in the city, but there were no injuries. It also claimed responsibil-

ity for a spate of small hotel bombs in Colombo last year in which there were no injuπies. The military said it took

the group seriously. "They have proved they have explosives and can do something in Colombo," a spokesman said: "Our intelligence people know about them." "We can't allow any fore-

ign investors to come to Sri Lanka," the letter said. It told foreigners not to import Sri Lankan goods, not to build hotels in Sri Lanka or be involved in any coproduction or development projects. •

President Chandrika Kumaratunga Thursday announced a devolution package for the country's minority Tamils, stressing the war was against the LTTE and not the Tamil people.

The bombing of St. Peter's Church compound on the first day of Operation Leap Forward on July 9 has become steeped in controversy. It was first reported that the church was destroyed, and then it was found that the building was intact.

Both the LTTE and the International Committee of the Red Cross have blamed the air force and the government agent in Jaffna says 122 civilians were killed.

Thursday it was probably the work of the LTTE who were firing mortar shells in that direction. The military says it does not know who was responsible for the attack but is

investigating. Ellalan Force also said it partially blamed the LTTE for the casualties at the compound for telling the people its anti-aircraft capabilities were enough to stop any air

The group has long been believed to be a cover for the LTTE in order not to embarrass Western countries where the LTTE have offices.

Meanwhile, troops moved out from Alaveddi, within newly regained territory, at first light Friday and "overcame resistance without much effort" with the loss of five men, a defence ministry said. Twenty soldiers were wounded.

The forces, backed by air and naval cover, advanced to Chunakam before returning to Alaveddi, the military

Radio transmissions by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said the fighting lasted for eight hours and that 2,400 troops had been deployed. Tiger Radio said the LTTE had lost four cadres, including three women.

At the same time, the armed forces fired shells from their bases at Palali and Mandaitivu Island, the radio said.

A pro-government newspaper said Saturday Sri Lanka will likely hold elections if the latest government plan to end the island's separatist war fails.

The sweeping political re-forms proposed by President

Mrs. Kumaratunga said Kumaratunga to resolve the ethnic conflict must win a two-thirds majority in parlia-

> The president planned to dissolve parliament and call fresh polls if she was unable to get the vital backing of the opposition United National Party (UNP), the progovernment Ravaya weekly said in editions to be released Sunday.

An advance copy obtained Saturday said the government believed it could improve on its one-seat majority in new elections, making the peace issue central to its campaign.
Mrs. Kumaratunga de-

clined to answer questions about election plans. "We will answer that at the right time," she said.

In a separate development. mystery shrouded the recovery of 16 bodies from lakes in and around Colombo in the last three months.

Police refuse to say anything on the identity of those killed or the motive behind the crime. The victims are men in the age group 35-40.

In the latest incident, two highly decomposed bodies were fished out Friday from the Divawanna Lake near parliament building, police Early this week; police

found three bodies, two in the Hamilton Canal north of the city, and one in Bolgoda Lake where 11 decomposed bodies were found in May and June. Bolgoda Lake is a popular

tourist resort, 25 kilometres (15 miles) south of the Sri Lankan capital.

Some of the victims had mutilated sexual organs, while some were found with their hands tied, police said.

Russia could stop Chechenya pullout over PoWs

GROZNY, Russia (R) — The commander of Kremlin forces in Chechenya said Saturday his troops would not start pulling out of the separatist region until rebels had handed over a full list of Russian prisoners they were

"There will be no withdrawal of Russian troops until this issue is resolved," Anatoly Romanov told Reuters in the regional capital

His comments seemed a clear attempt to put more pressure on the Chechens, who signed a military agreement last Sunday to stop the fighting. Gen. Romanov said there had been just five attacks on his troops overnight, but no one was in-

The rebels have given the

Russians a list containing just seven names, while ITAR-TASS news agency quoted Mr. Romanov as saying he feared the rebels were holding up to 250 prisoners. I do not know whether

the Chechen side is ready for this. On our side there are no problems," said Mr. Romanov. under constant pressure from a group of several dozen Russian mothers in Grozny who are frantically trying to

negotiator at talks to end the

find their missing sons.

"All Chechens and Russian people are waiting for this, the main point, the exchange of prisoners. This will immediately reduce the tension and people will start to trust each other and start disarming," Gen. Romanov

But Khodzhakhmed Yerikhanov, chief Chechen bloody eight-month conflict, denied he was concealing information from Gen. Roma-

"The Chechen side is only holding seven Russian prisoners. All the others were released earlier and the Russian side should have a look in their own concentration camps where thousands of Chechen civilians are being held," he told Reuters.

"If Russians know about prisoners the Chechens are holding, why do they not give us this information? We have neither the place for the food to keep many Russians prisoners.

Mr. Yerikhanov said many Russian captives had been simply handed over to relatives earlier in the conflict and had therefore never offi-

cially been removed from the missing list.

"In any case, this issue should not block all the other questions such as disarmament and withdrawal of Russian troops. General Dmitry Volkogo-

nov, head of President Boris

Yeltsin's commission on prisoners, said Friday the rebels were holding at least 57 Russian servicemen. Mr. Yeltsin threw his weight behind the military

deal in a televised address to the nation Thursday. He said the military deal

was the first success of peace negotiations which have yet to broach the trickiest issue Chechenya's constitutional status. Some rebels still demand full independence, which is total anothema to day and said three ailing captives could die unless they quickly received better: medical treatment. A statement delivered to

SRINAGAR, India (R) —

Kashmiri militants holding

five Western hostages lo-

wered their demands Satur-

Colombo Airport.

an international news organisation said the Al Faran militant group now wanted India to release 15 jailed separatists instead of 21 in exchange for the captive tourists.

Al Faran said it would not release the hostages unless its demands were met.

"However, it has made its demands flexible so that instead of 21 prisoners it is now demanding the release of only 15," said the statement, written in Urdu and dated Aug. 5. At the outset of the month-

demanded that New Delhi free 21 separatists who had been jailed for fighting against Indian rule in the troubled region. Police and hospital officials

long hostage crisis Al Faran

say more than 20,000 people have died in the five-year-old rebellion.

The Al Faran group also issued a tape cassette on which a man who identifies group, which has periodically sent messages to news orga-

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin may

return to work in the Kremlin Monday after a mild heart

attack, a spokesman said

"He is hurrying to get back to work. Monday is one of

the latest options for his re-

turn to the Kremlin," the

Thursday.

Hutchings said he and Briton Keith Mangan had been shot in a clash between their captors and the Indian army, and that Mr. Mangan was in a "very critical" condition.

himself as American Donald

Kashmir militants ease demands, say hostages sick

The militants attached two colour photographs. One, with Mr. Mangan's name on the back, showed a man lying down with blood dozing from a bandage around his chest and shoulders.

The other photograph, with Mr. Hutchings' name on the back, showed a man with blood near his waist. There were no dates on the pic-

Mr. Hutchings said on a poor quality tape recording that he had been shot during an Indian army attack on the militants while in the mountains. He did not say when the attack occurred.

"I do not have the strength to speak much," he said. "But I think Keith is very critical with many wounds and a broken leg." On July 21 Al Faran said

two of the hostages had been injured in a clash with Indian security forces. India denied there had been any fighting. Two days later the militant

wounded hostages was in a serious condition. "We have no medicine. The time is very dangerous

nisations, said one of the

for us," Mr. Hutchings said on the tape-recorded message, which was not dated. The Al Faran statement said two foreign tourists whom it did not id injured in a clash with the

a critical condition. German Dirk Hasert was also ill, it The condition of the three is deteriorating by the day. They have stopped eating anything which has further

Indian army, and one was in

affected their health," it said. "If they don't get better medical care immediately, they may even die, for which the government will be re-

"If the governments of the respective countries want the safe release of their nationals, they should put pressure on the Indian government."

Mr. Mangan and Mr. Hutchings were captured on July 4 along with Briton Paul Wells and American John Childs while trekking near Pahalgam, 90 kilometres from Srinagar, summer capital of the northern Indian

state of Jammu and Kashmir.

return to the Kremlin. Inter-

The Al Faran militant group abducted Mr. Hasert and Hans-Chritian Ostro of Norway four days later. hours after Mr. Childs managed to escape unharmed.

Some 5,000 heavily guarded Hindus defied death threats from Muslim guerrillas Saturday and embarked on an animal pilgrimage to a mountain cave in Kashmir.

The pilgrims left Jammu. winter capital of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. under tight security ordered by authorities to guard against attacks from Muslim militants.

The Harkat-Ul-Ansar separatist group has warned Hindus not to participate in the pilgrimage and claimed responsibility for two bomb plasts which killed 18 people

in Jammu last month. The group's threat was in protest against the 1992 demolition of a 16th century mosque by Hindu extremists in the northern Indian city of

Ayodhya. On Wednesday, a paramilitary trooper was killed when militants detonated a land mine on the route leading to the cave, sacred to the Hindu god, Shiva.

White House threatens veto of defence bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration has threatened to veto the 1996 defence authorisation bill unless "unacceptable provisions" for a nationwide missile defence are deleted or

sharply modified.

"In our view, these provisions, if enacted into law, would effectively abrogate the ABM treaty." National Security Adviser Anthony, Lake said in a letter to the Senate leadership Friday. Meanwhile, however, the Senate dealt the White House another setback in the

nuclear weapons arena. By a

56-44 vote it defeated an

amendment to bar smallscale underground test explosions. Sen. Storm Thurmond chairman of Senate Armed Services Committee, said the tests were "the only tool left to assess the capability of the

shrinking nuclear stockpile.

"We need to do this," Sen. Thurmond said. "We're living in a dangerous world." The veto threat was fortified by the close votes on that there is no intention to pass this bill," said a frusso-called hydronuclear tests - those with a yield of less trated Senate majority leader than 4 pounds (1.8 kilo-Bob Dole, who postponed grams). TNT equivalent further debate on the meaand on an antimissile defence, which was approved 51-49 Thursday night. Overriding a presidential veto requires two-thirds of the Sen-

e and House. branch's authority regarding "Let me be clear," Mr. treaties and said action would ate and House.

Kake said. "Unless the unacceptable missile defence provisions are deleted or revised and other changes are made to the bill, bringing it more in line with the administration's policy, the president's advisers will recom-

mend that he veto the bill."

Earlier, Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota said the Senate's endorsement of a missile defence plan flew in the face of the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty with Russia and could touch off another arms

"If you loved the cold war you'll love this defence bill," Sen. Deschie told reporters as the Senate resumed debate on the measure. "I can't for the life of me understand why the Republicans want to go back to the bad old days of arms escalation."

A final vote on the bill was stalled late Friday night when Democrats indicated they still planned to offer some 60 amendments. "It's clear to the leader

sure until Saturday after-The State Department accused the bill's proponents of usurping the executive have the effect of abrogating the accord. "We were deeply disturbed by this vote," spokesman David Johnson said.

The treaty, which sharply limits defences against missiles as a way of discouraging a nuclear attack, is a bedrock of strategic stability, the official said. The theory behind the treaty is that a potential aggressor would hold fire

rather than risk a devastating

retaliatory attack - one that

could not be prevented for a lack of an antimissile de-The Clinton administration adamantly opposes the plan to build a nationwide network of antiballistic missile defences, and Sen. Daschle

said he would urge the presi-

dent to veto the measure. The Senate had voted to retain languge in its 1996 defence authorisation bill that directs the Pentagon to set up a multi-site missile defence system by 2003 and unilaterally defines the kind of antimissile systems that should be allowed under the 1972 ABM treaty.

Senate Republicans, while

denying they were violationg

the accord, said it was time to

reassess the cold war treaty,

which left both the United

States and the Soviet Union

vulnerable to nuclear attack,

concept known as mutual assured destruction. "The bottom line is that the bill recognises ... that mutual assured destruction, the doctrine underlying the ABM treaty, is not a suitable

basis for stability in a multipolar world," Sen. Dole said. A second setback followed Friday with defeat on an amendment to prevent hydronuclear tests, which advocates say can help ensure the potency of the plutonium part of stockwiled U.S. nuc-Mr. Clinton has continued

a moratorium ordered by forner President Bush and all U.S. nuclear weapons tests while pursuing negotiations for a worldwide accord. Some Pentagon and State Department officials want to conduct some tests to ensure the U.S. nuclear arsenal is reliable. Opponents say computers serve that purpose.

tional \$7 billion from the overall bill. And, they overwhelmingly defeated, 70-26, a burden-shasring amendement requiring the nation's European allies to shoulder a greater share of the cost of stationing U.S. troops there. Among the amendments agreed to late Friday was a

one-year moratorium on the

United State's use of land

By a vote of 51-46, sena-

tors refused to trim an addi-

Yeltsin may return to work tomorrow spokesman at the Presidential Press Services told Reu-

"He is feeling well. He has fully completed his course of rehabilitation." the spokesman said. He did not say which, if

considered for Mr. Yeltsin's

Newspapers said there

various crimes and clarity its

any, other dates were being

fax News Agency quoted sources in the presidential administration as saving he would be back at work Mon-

Mr. Yeltsin. 64. was taken to hospital on July 11 with what he later described as a mild heart attack. He has

already left hospital and has been recovering in a sanatorium just outside Moscow. Mr. Yeltsin has been working from the sanatorium and. showed no visible after-

effects of his heart problems

when he gave a televised speech to the nation Thurs-

5 killed in new Karachi wave of violence

KARACHI (Agencies) least five people were killed Saturday in a new wave of political violence that has struck the Pakistani port city of Karachi, bringing the death toll this month to more than 50, police said,

They said the bullet-

riddled bodies of two uniden-

tified young men were found

affiliations of the victims

arrest of militants.

Gunfire incidents were also in the eastern Koranbi area. reported in the volatile cen-They had been stuffed inside tral and eastern districts, consacks with their hands and sidered to be MQM stronfeer bound. Three deaths were also re-The government wants the ported in east, west and cen-MOM to give up arms, surtral districts. The political render activists wanted for

were not immediately political policies. The fresh wave of violence Witnesses said parliamenbegan after four MQM activtary Rangers and police corists were killed in a police doned off parts of the Koranencounter Wednesday. gi area early Saturday morn-More than 1,250 people ing and searched houses for have been killed in political

tion in 1947.

the recovery of weapons and and sectarian violence in Karachi so far this year com-The government blames pared to 800 last year. The three mutilated bodies most of the violence on the

Mohajir National Movement found Saturday were a warn-(MQM) which speaks for the Urdu-speaking Mohajirs who ing to would-be police intormers, police said, migrated from India at parti-They said the bodies con-

were more than 100 arrests in people against collaborating everal raids at the houses of with police. MQM workers and activists The slaughter of alleged in various parts of the city. intormers has risen dramatically since July when police launched an operation to flush out ethnic militants

tained notes identifying them

as informers and warning

hoods, police said, They said at least 20 hodies have been found in the past month, all of them containing notes identifying them as

from Karachi's violent west-

ern and central neighbour-

police collaborators. On Friday the bodies of two more alleged informers were found, chopped up into several pieces and stutted in the trunk of a car abandoned in Karachi's troubled Orangi

district. Also Friday six people were killed in separate inci-

dents elsewhere in the city.

Bhutto's government has

Prime Minister Benazir

been unable to stop the violence. Earlier police said they were stymied by a lack of cooperation from people in the affected neighbourhoods. In July Ms. Bhutto ordered Karachi's security force to regain control of neighbour-

ches and taken up positions on roottops, Thousands of weapons were confiscated in the police. operation and dozens of alleged militants killed.

hoods it had lost to ethnic

militants, who had dug tren-

police said. Last week Interior Minister Nasrullah Babaar told reporters police had restored calm to several neighbourhoods largely because people had began to speak out. He didn't explain why the change

enopause

By Rami G. Kho

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Ekeus' last mission?

ROLF EKEUS, the chairman of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM), charged with the implementation of Security Council resolutions pertaining to Iraq, is now in what is widely perceived as his last mission. Mr. Ekeus has recently said that Iraq's germ warfare programme was the last outstanding issue between the U.N. and Baghdad. The Iraqi government has also declared that it was willing and ready to provide the visiting U.N. team with all necessary information about this subject and has set the end of August as a deadline for UNSCOM to finish its mandate in the country. Meanwhile, the U.S. ambassador to the U.N., Madeline Albright, appeared less prepared to welcome all the positive developments on the Iraqi front when she told a recent Senate debate that Iraq could not be trusted to give full data on its biological weapons. This prejudgement on Iraq's intentions is counterproductive and cannot serve as an inducement for Baghdad to cooperate fully with the U.N. on the remaining issue.

There is a growing feeling in the Arab and Muslim worlds and among many Security Council members that Iraq has abided by all the requirements of the Security Council resolutions. Many people in the Middle East have a vested interest in the complete rehabilitation of Iraq into the region. His Majesty King Hussein has optly pointed out to this recently when he said that Iraq is an important Arab country which has yet to play its natural role for consolidating the peace process in the area. "I believe that within the framework of peace in the region Iraq, with its vast potentials, can play a role in the establishment of peace," the King said. Without the participation of Baghdad in the peace process there might not be a genuine and comprehensive peace in the region. Jordan is more than ready to take up the necessary initiative to end the existing abberation in regional stability.

The big powers, especially the U.S. and Britain, should spell out their demands from the Iraqi regime and then should start a dialogue with Baghdad in order to put an end to an odd situation that has inflicted the region for the past five years. The rehabilitation of Iraq, politically and economically, would strengthen and give fresh impetus to the peace process.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

**

ARAB OBSERVERS of the negotiations with Israel on the Syrian and the Palestinian tracks feel disappointed with Israeli procrastinations and delays in taking steps leading to a settlement of the conflicts, said Al Ra'i daily Saturday. On the Palestinian track. Israel has been creating complications and obstacles since the start of the meetings in Oslo. not only in reaching written agreements but also in implementing the deals by holding on to the excuse of ensuring security for the Jewish state, said the paper. It said that the Palestinians have often expressed their understanding of Israel's concerns over security consideration and have often displayed willingness to help ensure that security, but the Israelis continue to delay practical actions towards the implementation of their agreements with the Palestinian side. On the Syrian track, said the paper, the Israelis refuse to declare their readiness to give up the Syrian Golan Heights at a time when they continue to brag about their readiness to reach peace with Syria. It said the Syrians, who realise that the Israeli decisions are made in Washington, insist that the U.S. remains the peace broker in all the stages of the peace process. Observers of the situation and of the slow-moving peace process realise that it is Israel which is obstructing the path of peace.

A WRITER in Al Dustour criticised the current municipal elections law, which allows the government to appoint the mayor and 20 members of the 40-seat municipal council in Amman. By giving itself the right to appoint half the members of the Amman municipal council, said Fakhri Kawar, the government has infringed on the rules of democracy. By denying the Ammanites the right to elect half of the council members, the government has thus deprived the residents of the capital where most Jordanians live, of the right to choose their representatives, said the writer. Furthermore, the government has chosen 20 members who are never known to have been involved in public service, thus further casting doubts about its real intentions, said the writer.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

A cool or overheated economy — Are we taking the right medicine?

THERE IS confusion and disagreement over the present status of the Jordanian economy. The question is whether the economy is overheated or in a state of recession. The treatment of one situation is, of course, the opposite of what should be done in the other. Hence the crucial question: Are we taking the proper medicine or the wrong

Based on the strong economic indicators of the first quarter of this year, especially of exports, imports, construction and other activities, the experts of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimated that the real economic growth during 1995 will be in the order of 6.2 per cent, with inflation below 4 per cent. They also predicted that the deficit in the balance of payments will be smaller than the target due to higher exports, more remittances, prosperity of tourism and moderation of imports. The balance of payments deficit will be less than 5 per cent of

the gross domestic product (GDP), they concluded. However, most economic indicators of the second quarter of the year, which appeared after the departure of the IMF delegation, declined, which necessitates reconsideration of the above optimistic estimates. What we should hope for in the current circumstances is maintaining a positive growth of GDP at a rate not less than the population growth rate. The purpose, of course, is the protection of the per capita income and the standard of living reached last year. In other words, we are not after gains in the quality of life this year, we are only after keeping the status quo, not a very ambitious objective for

the first year under peace.

In the second quarter of 1995, imports rose beyond expectations, exports growth slowed down, the trade deficit swollen, and it became evident that public expenditure exceeded the budget and may render budget deficit higher than programmed. Inflation, on the other hand, gave a negative reading in some months, a very unusual phenomenon which could not be looked upon as a pleasant achievement, but rather as a result of contraction of demand or recession. This last observation needs to be reconciled with the high growth of imports.

As far as unemployment is concerned, we are left in the darkness. No accurate information is available. We can hardly guess whether unemployment is on the rise or in decline. Our own guess is that economic growth, if any, is hardly enough to accommodate the new-comers to the

In the midst of this confusion, it becomes difficult to set the priorities of the economic policy. Most likely, the government will continue to behave on the assumption that the economy is growing at 6.2 per cent, as the IMF was led to believe. There is a big chance that we shall be taking the wrong medicine, or at least a higher dose than we need to take under the new set of circumstances.

One wonders if it is right for the Central Bank to continue sucking liquidity from the market at a higher cost born by the Treasury while the forecast of economic growth should be revised downwards. Is it right for the Central Bank to apply a tight policy and raise interest rates on the As far as unemployment is concerned, we are left in the darkness. No accurate information is available. We can hardly guess whether unemployment is on the rise or in decline. Our own guess is that economic growth, if any, is hardly enough to accommodate the new-comers to the labour market.

JD when unemployment is high and may be getting higher and the inflation rate is negative? Such policies are usually recommended to cool down an overheated economy, not an economic recession or slow down.

We understand the motivation of the Central Bank to apply a stricter monetary policy. The objectives are to protect the exchange rate of the JD vis-a-vis the dollar, reduce demand on consumption and indirectly check imports, but we are afraid that these measures, taken at the recommendation of the IMF, are too strong and too fast that they may cause further deterioration in the level of economic activity, lower growth, and higher unemploy-



China's military: Disciplined but more influential

By Ellis Joffe

BEIJING — As China moves into the post-Deng era, its armed forces are positioned to play a new role in foreign affairs. Their influence in policy-making on critical issues, such as Taiwan and China's relations with the United States, is unprecedented. Even so, it is not unqualified. Nor is it pushing the political leadership towards military action abroad.

Five factors account for the growing influence of the armed forces in foreign policy. First and most important is the uncertain position of Jiang Zemin, China's president and Communist Party chief.

Lacking the unique personal authority of Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping, Mr. Jiang has to rely primarily on coalitions and performance. He is, therefore, vulnerable to criticism and pressure from groups whose backing is vital.

Since the armed forces are foremost among these groups, and since Mr. Jiang cannot, as Mao and Deng could, count on their unconditional support in a crisis, he has to be receptive to their views and interests. This not only gives the military a greater say in policy-making than before, it also extends their voice to issues like relations with America on which they previously did not carry much weight.

The second factor is that institutional procedures are now more conducive to facilitating the exercise of influence by the military. At the top level, authority is concentrated less in the hands of the paramount leader and is more diffused among members of the supreme decision-making body, the Standing Committee of the Politburo, on which the military is represented by its two most senior commanders.

At lower levels, there has been in the past few years a profusion of research institutes whose analysts prepare reports and recommendations for military decision-makers. Additional input is occasionally provided by retired senior commanders, who are known to have urged political and military leaders to take a firm stand on issues such as Taiwan and relations with the United

Another channel forarmy influence is the small group of senior bureaucrats who oversee the implementation of foreign policy and in which the armed forces have at least one member.

The third factor is the military's role as chief standard-bearer of resurgent Chinese nationalism. Fuelled by past humiliations, nationalism is particularly potent in the defence force because it is wedded to the pride and patriotism that are hallmarks of the military profession.

Since the present. Chinese political leadership lacks the nationalistic credentials of its predeessors, the armed forces, especially younger officers, reportedly view it with some suspicion and see themselves as a bulwark against encroachments on national honour and independence.

The collapse of the Soviet Union and the reduction of the U.S. military presence in East Asia have enabled China to pursue a more vigorous foreign policy in its neighbourhood. As , a result, the prospect that the Chinese armed forces will be called on to fight is not inconceivable, although it remains unlikely. In these circumstances, the military has a direct interest in influencing foreign policy, since they might be saddled with its consequences — and this at a time when the political leadership is amenable to

such influence. These factors do not add up to a military wielding far-reaching influence over Chinese foreign policy, because such influence is limited by several constraints. The first derives

The military's influence has been neither decisive nor aggressive. The danger is that rhetoric and posturing have an independent dynamic.

Complementing this is a fourth factor, the selfinterest of the military. Although government budget allocations to the defence forces have risen steadily in the last six years, they still do not meet the minimal requirements of effective modernisation. Turning up the political heat over the motion-laden Taiwan problem by holding military exercise and firing missiles not far from the island is a sure-fire method for raising the prestige of the armed forces and reinforcing demands for more

funds. Such demands come from all services but are especially important for the navy and air force, which still have to undergo costly upgrading before China can really enforce its ter-ritorial claims in the South China Sea and elsewhere in

the region.
The fifth factor derives from changes in the international situation. During the cold war, Beijing's overriding concern was with superpower relations. In that context, the army's only mission was to defend China in line with the "people's war" doctrine. In the mid-1980s, the country moved away from this doctrine in favour of "local wars" beyond China's borders and building elite rapid reaction forces capable of carrying out such

from the workings of the country's political system, in which acceptance of authority is the norm. The defence forces will support the established leadership as long as it performs adequately. Whatever his difficulties, Mr. Jiang has not lost legitimacy, and his dependence on the military is

Second, while Mr. Jiang does not have the personal stature of his predecessors, neither are the current military leaders first-rank revolutionary elders. In any case, they will soon be replaced by a new postrevolutionary generation of commanders who, like Mr. Jiang, do not derive their standing from past exploits and connections.

Relations between them will be based largely on institutional positions, which will limit the military's ability to intervene in politics outside regular procedures - as long as Mr. Jiang does not falter badly.

Third, the issue on which the armed forces have reportedly intervened -Taiwan and Washington's policy towards the island, which Beijing regards as a rebel province - concern what the Chinese consider as their sovereignty and are non-negotiable. There is, therefore, broad leadership consensus on the country's response; no leader can afford to be seen as weak or wavering. The influence

of the military may act as a reinforcement, but it is preaching to the converted and not prodding the political leadership where it does not want to go.

Fourth, the record shows that the Chinese defence forces have always taken action cautiously. The only exception was the Korean perceived a threat to its national security. In every other case when the military took action on or outside China's borders it had a marked advantage and there was a low risk of escalation.

This is not so on Taiwan. The Chinese armed forces are well aware of their weaknesses and the dangers they would face, in addition to uncertainty about the U.S. response. So they are not likely to push for a clash. Their posturing is not a precursor to military action but an effort to prevent it.

Finally, while retired officers may have urged Mr. Jiang to take a firm stand on Taiwan, their views do not necessarily represent those of the present-day generals. In any case, there is no evidence to substantiate re-ports that Mr. Jiang has been under heavy pressure from various quarters within the armed forces.

The Chinese army remains a hierarchical and disciplined organisation. While militant sentiments may have been expressed at various levels, their proponents do not petition the political leadership directly. The views of the military are communicated at the top levels through its representatives in policymaking bodies.

On balance, the leadership transiton has expanded the role of the defence establishemnt in foreign affairs, but the military's influence has been neither decisive nor aggres-

The danger is that rhetoric and posturing have an independent dynamic. If China feels intolerably provoked by moves towards Taiwan's independence, caution might collapse and some military action might be taken — even against the better judgement of the armed forces.

The writer, professor of Chinese studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and author of "The Chinese Army Under Mao," contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

France's 'great power' argument cuts no ice abroad

By Paul Taylor

PARIS - The French government faces problems defending President Jacques Chirac's decision to resume nuclear weapons tests because the main argument it uses at home - that France must remain a "great pow-er" — only exacerbates hostility abroad.

The message to a sceptical public, 60 per cent of which is opposed to testing. is that France needs eight more underground tests in the South Pacific to maintain its independent nuclear. deterrent and thus remain a major world power.

"France is a great country and it has to protect itself. We have been invaded three times in one century and we want to have security," Foreign Minister Herve de Charette told Australian television, referring to Prussian and German invasions.

That idea carries weight in a country whose char-ismatic leader Charles de Gaulle effaced the humiliation of Nazi occupation during World War II and went on to defy the United States by building his own atomic strike force in the 1960s. But it is unpalatable not just among South Pacific

nations but also to most of Paris's European partners, especially at a time when the end of the cold war has spurred moves towards nuclear disarmament. In the Asia-Pacific re-

gion, the "great power" message sounds to many like New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger's protestation of "Napoleonic arrogance.

It also offends many in Germany, France's biggest neighbour and parmer, be-

rather than European integration. If France is going to be nationalistic about its deterrent, why should Germany not be nationalistic about keeping the mark, rather

than giving up its treasured

cause it smacks of old-

fashioned nationalism

currency in a European monetary union, some German commentators ask. "Playing up France's national independence as a nuclear power has the effect of distancing it from greater European togetherness in military affairs," the conservative Frankfurter

Allgemeine Zeitung commented last month. To counter such concerns, Mr. Chirac's supporters have begun to advance the argument that French nuclear tests are in Europe's interest because a future European Union (EU) defence force will not

want to be dependent on the U.S. nuclear umbrella. France's best known Euro-sceptic, National Assembly Speaker Philippe Seguin, made that case on Mr. Chirac's behalf this

week.
"To our European friends who, when they criticise French action, think they are advancing the cause of independence and peace: By bringing its nuclear weapon to a modest but effective level of performance, France is working for all of Europe," he wrote in the newspaper Le

That idea runs counter to the traditional Gaullist doctrine of total national nuclear independence and raises awkward questions of whether France would consuit non-nuclear EU partners on its targeting. strategy and use.

LETTERS

U.N. role questioned

To the Editor:

JORDAN'S MOVE towards sending relief supplies to Bosnia gives me a feeling of great pride to belong to a country that is concerned with humanity.

Simultaneously, it really made me question the role of the U.N., currently celebrating its 50th anniversary in a variety of ways which include concerts, conferences and possibly other ways that are devised by experts, well versed in public relations. I may be ignorant of the attributes of the U.N. or its agencies. But as many would testify, the U.N. and its agencies are well staffed with experts of the highest calibre and with high salary earnings. I do not deny that some of these agencies are quite effective as they inform us that breast-feeding is the healthiest form of feeding, reestablishing the practice after it was dropped for

We read a lot and heard more of how the U.N. can vitalise its role. It is power politics that will chart the future of Bosnia, but has the U.N. any plans in order to help the Bosnians while it is celebrating its 50th anniversary?

Lamia Nasser,

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

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Stories

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Lamia Nasser Amman. and contributions in a state of the test o

arms embargo. ing to Croatia's military drive peace," he said.

Features

Tell Jawa: A fortified Iron Age town on the edge of the Ammonite kingdom

Text and photos By Rami G. Khouri Special to the Jordan Times

SIX SEASONS of excavations at Tell Jawa, southeast of Amman, directed by Canadian scholar P.M. Michele Daviau of Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada, have uncovered the substantial standing remains of a large town that was heavily fortified and extensively used during the Iron Age period, some 3.000 years ago — but a town that may soon dis-appear forever, because of the complexities of reconciling the conservation of our ancient heritage with the demands of contemporary urban expansion.

Tell Jawa is located on a strategic hilltop in the growing residential suburb of Yadouda, about a kilometre due east from Kan Zaman. It enjoys fine panoramic views in all directions. The airport tower is visible to the south. Madaba to the west, and the Amra Hotel to the north. This strategic position along the southern flank of the ancient kingdom of Ammon probably explains why it was initially settled in the early Iron Age. circa 1200-1100 BC. and why it was heavily fortified with a massive town

The site was abandoned sometime in the 7th or 6th century BC, at the end of the Iron Age, and was not reocccupied until the Umayyad period in the late 7th century AD — at least this is the site's occupational history based on the evidence from the excavated areas within the two hectare site. Most of the Tell has not been excavated, because permission could not be obtained from all of

the land's private owners.

It is possible that the site was settled at other times in the 1300 years between the late Iron and the Umayyad eras, though this seems unlikely becuse only Umayyad and fron Age pottery has been obtained from the surface surveys at the site. When he visited the site in 1933, the American scholar Nelson Glueck mentioned that it was being cultivated, which means that any pottery on or immediately below the surface would have been well mixed together and dragged all along the surface of the site — indicating that an occupation gap in the portery from the survey

Why the site was abandoned at the end of the fron Age is not yet known. There is no evidence of burning which might suggest earthquake damage. though the presence of many arrowheads could indicate that battles took place at the site. In most buildings, the upper stories collapsed into the lower stories and filled in the ground floor rooms. in some cases crushing and killing people who were caught in the town's final

surely represents an actual

gap in the history of the

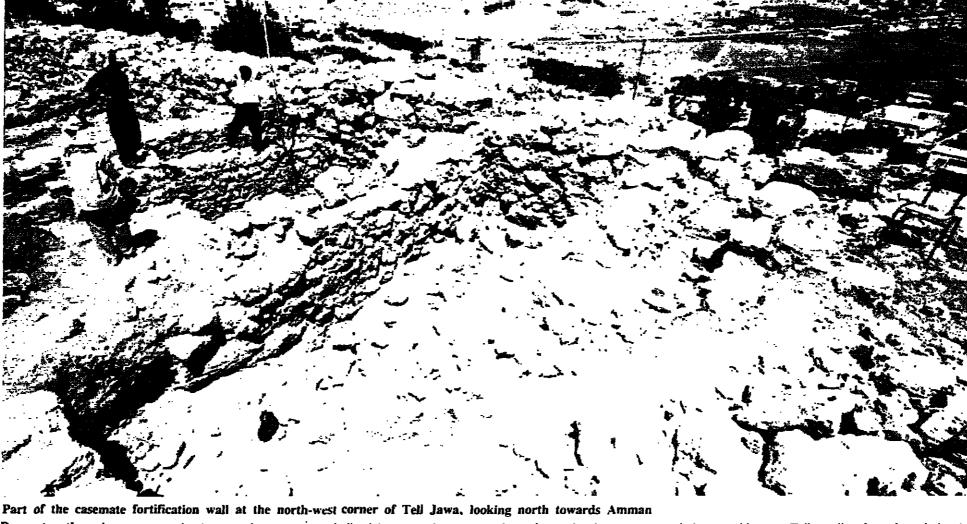
wall in the Iron Age II pereiod, around 900-650

nite urbanism

more about building techniques and material culture in the Iron Age., Dr. Daviau and her colleagues also seek to determine the Tell Jawaites' political. economic and cultural relationships with the Ammonite capital and heartland of Rabbath-Ammon (modfron Age settlements at well-documented sites such as Tell Umeiri. Hisban and

ture of the ancient town is probably its outer fortification wall. It has been excavated at several points to reveal a casemate wall that is nearly six metres thick in some places. Typically, it comprised a two-metrethick outer casemate wall made of large boulders nearly a metre long each. separated by a space of nearly two metres from an inner casemate wall. The inner and outer casemates were made up of rooms

Towers were positioned along the wall in several places. One excavated tower along the west side of the wall measured nine by five metres, and now is separated from the wall itself by a gap of nearly a metre. This gap probably did not



Reconstructing Ammo-

The excavated areas have revealed a series of structures that will increase scholars' understanding of construction techniques and urban layouts in the Iron Age; this period is quite well represented in Jordan, but rarely has an entire walled town such as this been available for ex-

Along with learning

The most impressive fea-

-built against the main wall. exist in antiquity, but does

Serb attacks on Muslims in

Bosnia left no room for inter-

"Sooner or later, he who kills gets killed," said Mr. Musa. "The Serbs leave no

scope to sympathise with

them under any circumst-

ances after their behaviour

and criminal attacks on the

Egyptian Television said

the government was laun-

ching a nationwide campaign

to raise cash and humanita-

rian assistance for Bosnian

It said prime minister Atef

Sedki had instructed the

Egyptian Red Crescent Orga-

nisation to supervise collec-

tion of donations in Cairo,

Alexandria and Rural pro-

Germany's Chancellor Helmut Kohl said that an

escalation of the conflict in

former Yugoslavia was possi-

ble but could be avoided.

after Croatian forces laun-

ched an offensive against re-

tion to this conflict. We must

find a solution through nego-

tiations," he told daily news-

paper Bild in an interview.

but we must take every possi-

ble chance to negotiate

"It almost looks hopeless,

There is no military solu-

bel Krajina Serbs.

national sympathy.

Bosnian people."

Muslims.

today because the connection between the tower and the wall has disappeared over time. A cache of 25 iron arrowheads found nextto the tower may well suggest its defensive purpose. Along the southeastern

edge of the site. Dr.

Daviau's team found the basic casemate wall plus an additional buttress-like wall outside and downhill from it. She thought this may have been a logical point for a roadway to enter the city through a gate. The gate system appears to have been uncovered, but there is no roadway. Inside the gate area is a series of rooms with 1.3-metre-thickwalls, next to a cobbled floor areas - suggesting to Dr. Daviau that perhaps she has stumbled across a type of gate that is prre-

The casemate fortificaup against it.

built right up against the

out the site. valent viously unknown from the fron II period.

tion wall is pierced other-wise only by some stonebuilt plastered water drains that led to cisterns, and a narrow opening along the north-west section of the wall - perhaps an. emergency escape passage? In most areas where it has been excavated, the town wall had domestic and other structures built right

In the south-west corner of the town, adjacent to the inner face of the wall, is a courtyard that was used to recycle groundstone tools: 50-centimetre-long millstones that had broken into smaller pieces measuring around 30-40 centimetres were worked into hand grinders and other tools, of which some 120 were found in this area. In the northwest corner of the town is a series of domestic rooms

wall. Here were found ovens, mortars, groundstone tools to prepare and process food, cooking pots, iron knives with wooden handles, bones of cooked animals, unfired clay loom weights, and a plastered area with small bins, probably to store food or other commodities. About 20 large pithoi (storage) jars have been found through-

Two-storey houses pre-

Most of the buildings inside the town were built almost entirely of stone. with only occasional evidence of mudbrick used on the upper sections of some interior walls. This could to the fact that many buildings were two stories high, with the ceilings of the lower stories comprising wooden beams and packed mud resting on rows of (usually three) stone pillars. In the only Umayyad period building excavated so far. large limestone slabs held in place by other heavy stones formed the ceiling, similar to the corbelling rooting technique that is so well preserved at Umm El Jimal

"One of the things we do is study the different kinds of wall construction techniques, room sizes and building plans, and from this information we develop a better understanding of how Iron Age people lived and build their buildings. Dr. Daviau told the Jordan

north-east Jordan.

One large two-storey building with eleven rooms has two staircases still standing: this is thought to

have been the home of wealthy person or an official, because it contained a variety of "high status" pottery such as red slipped and black burnished wares. and some unusual painted artifacts such as stoppers and vessels that look like cultic stands. On the ground floor of this building the excavators uncovered two tabuns (cooking ovens), a cooking area, a storeroom filled with craters, bowls, lamps, pithoi jars, unfired clay loom weights and many groundstone tools such as grinders, basalt pestles, mortars, mortar bowls with feet, pounders and other



household implements.

An Umayyad period ceramic lamp from Tell Jawa (drawing by M. Beckmann)

The water system of the two is based totally on underground cisterns, due to the lack of a spring in the immediate area (the closest spring is four kilometres away). Some cisterns located outside the town walls were probably used to hold excess water when the cisterns within the walls

were full. One of the interesting issues that the team of

scholars working at Tell Jawa will try to clarify is its relationships with other Iron Age sites in the immediate vicinity, notably Tell Umeiri (located adjacent to the airport highway. about four kilometres to the west). It is assumed that both towns were part of the Ammonite kingdom. but this has yet to be firmly confirmed by the excavation evidence. One problem is that the political and cultural borders of ancient Ammon and Moab are not well delineated, and also changed over time. A strong piece of evidence for including Jawa in the Ammonite realm is a small, figurine with an Osiris crown on its head, almost identical to the crowned

vated in Amman. Another problem is that comparisons are difficult because very few Ammonite urban sites (as opposed to the more plentiful towers) have been excavated and published, namely Umeiri, Sahab, Hisban, Amman citadel, and Safur (near Sweileh). The only evidence of ancient writing excavated at the site was a badly worn pottery sherd with a few barely legible letters in Ammonite script.

Ammonite heads exca-

Umeiri continued to be inhabited in the late Iron II and Persian periods (circa 600-400 BC), when Jawa had been abandoned for some reason. The pottery evidence from both sites includes some parallels and overlaps, but the percentages of pottery forms differ: Jawa has more red slipped and black burnished wares, which suggests it is slightly earlier occupation date in the Iron Il period, while Umeiri has more pottery from the earlier Iron I period (circa 120-900 BC). In the mid and late Iron II periods. both sites seem to be using similar types of pottery. suggesting that they were occupied at the same time, shared cultural and technological traditions, and probably enjoyed a peaceful relationship. This is also

No attempt has been made to identify Tell Jawa with Ammonite sites that are known from literary sources such as the Bible and Assyrian texts, because there is not enough literary or artifactual evidance to associate the Tell with named ancient towns.

supported by parallels in

the architecture at the two

Umayyad period settle-

Evidence for the Umayyad settlement comes primarily from one excavated two-storey building near the centre of the tell, though other structures from this period certainly remain to be uncovered. Building techniques in the Umayyad building are very similar to those used at homes from the same period at Pella. in the north Jordan Valley. Outer walls were built of hewn, semihewn and unhewn stones in a "boulder-and-chink" style, with fill in between the boulders consisting of soil and small stones. Some walls included reused ele-

ments from earlier periods. The central courtyard of the Umayyad building was paved with a plain mosaic floor, which may represent the earliest phase of construction, probably in the late 7th century AD. Artifacts such as copper coins minted in Damascus and

Ramla, painted ceramic vessels. lamp fragments and a glass lamp base confirm that the latest use of the building was in the late Umayyad period (8th century AD). The building may have been abandoned after the earthquake of 747 AD, as no conclusive evidnece for occupation after that date has been discovered.

The Umayyad town also used an extensive water and agro-industrial facility located about 300 metres to the south, in an area where the natural bedrock rises different installations have been identified at this site. including cisterns, caves, animal herding pens, a wine treading floor with associated settling basin. olive crushing systems. quarries and other facilities. Excavations of the cave and the treading floor turned up pottery that could be classified either as very late Byzantine or early Umayyad. The Umayyad use of the area is certain because a threshhold in a door in a wall across the entrance of the cave is identical to a threshhold inside the Umayyad building on the Tell. Given the peace and security that characterised the area at that time, it is not unusual to find such important economic resources located outside the town in an open

Uncertain future

If you would like to examine the remains of a walled Iron Age town close-up, you' should plan to visit Tell Jawa soon. Despite its wealth of archaeological information from one of the most dynamic periods in Jordan's ancient history. Tell Jawa is unlikely to survive very much longer — because the private owners of the land adiacent to the Tell have started to build houses beside it, and a new road is being built through the

western part of the Telf.
This highlights the dilemma facing archaeological conservation throughout the country: How to preserve and study ancien sites while also assuring the rights of citizens to use their land as they wish? Whether or not it helps to resolve this question. Tell Jawa has already contributed significantly to our knowledge of human culture, architecture and urbanism in the Iron Age.

The Tell Jawa project has been funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Wilfrid Laurier University, and private donations. It started six years ago under the auspices of the Madaba Plains Project that centres around Tell Umeiri, but has been an independent research project for the last four years. The work is spon-sored by Wilfrid Laurier University, an dise carried out in Jordan in cooperation with the Jordanian Department of Antiquities and with the logistical support of the American Centre of Oriental Research.

Croatian Army against rebel Serbs, saying

(Continued from page 1)

catastrophe.

rights of all Serb civilians would be protected and all former fighters except those "involved in war crimes" would be pardoned.

With the cross-over of the Bosnian army into Croatia, wars in the two countries were solidly merged and threatened to draw in the powerful military of Serb-led Yugoslavia for the biggest Balkan battle since World

War II. Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic has so far held back, insisting on negotiations in his newfound role as peacemaker. But pressure was sure to mount from nationalists in Serbia and the army to join the fight, as the army did in the 1991 Serb-Croat war.

That six-month battle, which followed Croatia's secession from the Yugoslav federation, killed an estimated 10,000 people, dis-placed hundreds of thousands and left one-third of Croatia in rebel hands. Croatia has since reorganised and equipped its army despite a U.N.

Meanwhile, Egypt's Foreign Minister Amr Musa on Saturday gave implicit back-

King urges

(Continued from page 1)

details of plans for building a conference palace in Agaba. Also Saturday, King Hussein, accompa-nied by His Royal Highness Prince Hamzeh Ibn Al Hussein, made a tour of Agaba and visited the headquarters of the Royal Navy and called at Aqaba municipality, where he met its mayor Riyad Al Helou and the municipal council

King Hussein voiced his full support and backing to the council's endeavours to develop services in the city and improve tourism sites.

Hizbollah

(Continued from page 1)

arm Hizbollah as a condition for a withdrawal from South Lebanon within the framework of a Middle East peace settlement.

The Lebanese government refuses to rein in the group before an Israeli withdrawal. But its relations are strained with Hizbollah, the only militia left over from the 1975-90 civil war that is still armed.

Rebel

Kurds kill

9 in Turkey attacks

ANKARA (R) — Rebel Kurds killed eight civilians, including two children under 10, and one soldier in separate attacks in southern Turkey near Syria, the semiofficial Anatolian news agency said Saturday. The emergency rule governor's office in the southeastern city of Diyarbakir said troops had killed nine guerrillas of the rebel Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in separate clashes in the southeastern provinces of Bingol and Strnak. The figures cannot be independently confirmed. The eight civilians were killed and four more hurt in an overnight attack by the PKK in Hatay province, Anatolian said. Six of the dead were from the same family. "This is a mas-sacre," said Hatay governor Utku Acun. In a separate incident in the same province on Saturday, PKK guerrillas killed one soldier and injured two others in an ambush on a military vehicle, Mr. Acun told Anatolian. More than 17,500 people have been killed in Turkey in the PKK's.

11-year fight for independ-

ence or autonomy in the

NEWS IN BRIEF

Scandal-ruined BCCI founder dies

KARACHI (AP) - Agha Hasan Abedi, founder of the scandal-ruined Bank of Commerce and Credit International (BCCI), died Saturday in a Karachi hospital. He was 74. Doctors at the Aga Khan Hospital here said Mr. Abedi died of heart failure. He reportedly had not recovered consciousness since being admitted to hospital last Monday. Mr. Abedi's health had been failing since his heart transplant in 1988. Confined to a wheelchair, Ms. Abedi lived in virtual seclusion in his modest home in Karachi. Mr. Abedi's wife was at his side when he died, doctors said. He also is survived by one daughter, Maha. In one of the most spectacular banking fraud cases, international banking regulators shut down BCCI's world-wide operations on July 5, 1991. Mr. Abedi, however, had relinquished control of BCCI in 1988 following two massive heart attacks. He also suffered a stroke which resulted in brain damage and the loss of his voice. Labelled the world's most corrupt bank, the BCCI was linked to massive fraud and theft. It was connected to clandestine arms deals, financing of terrorists and laundering of drug money. Depositors lost millions of dollars as regulators seized BCCI's assets. Mr. Abedi, who dreamed of building a world banking empire to challenge the Western financial giants, steadfastly denied the charges. In 1994 he was convicted of fraud in abstentia in the United Arab Emirates and sentenced to an eightyear prison term. Pakistan refused to extradite him. The U.S. also sought Abedi's extradition, but Pakistan refused.

UAE starts tagging of threatened sea mammal

ABU DHABI (AP) - The dugong, a shy, seagrass-eating ocean mammal facing extinction, came under close scrutiny Saturday as a two-week-long satellite tagging expedition began. The tagging got under way in the Buttini shoals about 150 kilometres along the coast of the southern Gulf emirate of Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab

Emirates. Jonathan Ali Khan, director of the Arabian Seas Expedition in charge of the project, said the dugong was important because it helped maintain the balance of seagrasses. The tagging, which uses a small radio transmitter to send a signal to satellites in earth orbit, will help scientists figure out the dugong's roaming pattens. According to the conservationist, the dugong population in Arabian waters is believed estimated at about 7,300 and is the second largest in the world. Australia has the largets number estimated at some 30,000.

Workers march across Ankara

ANKARA (AFP) .- Thousands of public sector workers began a march across downtown Ankara Saturday to press for higher wages and improved working conditions. The march, organised by the Turkish Workers Unions Confederation (Turk-Is) and authorised by the governemnt. gathered workers from across the country who came in busloads. However, police kept a close watch on the demonstrators, frisking them as they entered closer to the city centre. Hundreds of policemen were deployed, and armoured personnel carriers were stationed at road junctions. Carrying banners proclaiming: "We want our rights now, not in the grave," as well as other slogans, the marchers walked along a bridge crossing downtown Ankara. They included workers from the health, constructin, military and food sectors. "Last year, the workers got a 25 per cent raise after demonstrations and strikes." said Bayram Meral, head of Turk-Is. Turkish law allows workers to go on partial strike and to stage demonstrations on condition they obtain permission from local authorities. Turk-Is was pushing for a higher pay raise than the 4.5 per cent the government offered this year, which Mr. Meral said was insufficient to meet the inflation rate. Turkish official figures put this year's rate at 80 per cent. The workers were also protesting the government's privatisation plan and delays in paying compensation to laid-off

New Saudi oil minister seen depoliticising sector

DUBAI (R) — The new Saudi Arabian oil minister is expected to focus on internal reorganisatison and technical aspects, ending three decades of politicisation of the vital sector by his two predeces-sors, sources said Friday.

Veteran oilman Ali Bin Ibrahim Al Nuaimi, 60, became oil minister Wednesday in the first major cabinet reshuffle since 1975 in the world's largests oil producing and exporting country.

"His two predecessors over-politicised the sector." said a well-placed industry source.

They were concerned with the politics of it and considered themselves political Sheikh Nuaimi "is a handson technocrat and will con-

centrate on the technical side of the industry" and present his country's views at OPEC meetings, added the source. King Fahd, who assumed

power in 1982, will continue as the ultimate decisionmaker with the final say in oil-related political decisions. especially at times of crisis. Sheikh Nuaimi replaced Hisham Nazer, oil minister since 1986. The forceful Sheikh Nazer, one of the longest-serving oil ministers in the Organisation of Pet-

roleum Exporting Countries

(OPEC), stood out among

his II counterparts in the

house of parliament Friday

Sheikh Nazer followed master showman Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, the longest-serving oil minister in Saudi history who held the post for 22 years and was in power during two world oil

Cutting operational costs. improving efficiency and raising income is at the top of Sheikh Nuaimi's agenda, industry sources say. Riyadh's oil income has

been falling since the early 1980s due to weak prices while spending remained high. It had a budget deficit of \$10.7 billion in 1994 and has a forecast \$4 billion shortfall in 1995 with total revenues envisaged at \$36 bil-

Projected 1995 oil income was put at about \$33 billion compared with \$111 billion in 1981 from crude exports of nine million barrels per day (b/d) and \$73 billion the following year when crude exports were about 5.6 million

Sheikh Nuaimi has "unfinished work in industrial projects, will look again at ARAMCO, the relationship with (Saudi Arabian industrial giant) SABIC, domestic price reforms, changing the pattern of domestic consumption and cutting operational costs." the well-placed

sources said. Sheikh Nuaimi ioined the

state firm Saudi ARAMCO at age 12 as a messenger. becoming the global oil giant's president and chief executive after obtaining several university degrees, mainly from the United

ARAMCO, which is in charge of most of Saudi Arabia's eight million b/d crude oil production, has substantial refining and downstream holdings in North America. Europe and Asia.

The source said two ARAMCO deputy chiefs -Abdullah Jumma and Abdul Aziz Al Huqeil — were high on the list of candidates to replace Sheikh Nuaimi in running day-to-day affairs of he company.

Industry sources say Sheikh Nuaimi was expected to push ahead with plans to promote the under-utilised gas industry, making gas readily available to SABIC. large enterprises and utility firms to free more oil for exports and raise revenue.

Saudi planners say Riyadh is eager to reverse an upward trend in power and fuel consumption patterns in the

Domestic electricity consumption was rising at an alarming 20 per cent a year but has slightly slowed down in recent months due to an increase in power and fuel

Italian parliament votes pensions reform into law

have final approval to the control," Mr. Dini said in a speech thanking the lower government's cost-cutting pensions reform bill and the house for its cooperation. measure now becomes law. Mr. Dini, appointed in January to head a stop-gap The bill, designed to save government after media magsome 100 trillion lire (\$63 billion) over the next decade. nate Silvio Berlusconi was was approved by 266 votes to ousted as prime minister, has now virtually completed his

des devoured resources d produced debts beyond

92 with 125 abstentions, offilimited programme. He has said he will offer It had been approved by President Oscar Luigi Scalthe senate (upper house) Thursday but had to return to his resignation when his the lower chamber of dework is complete, a step he is puties for a second reading now widely expected to take in September after presenting because of amendments made to the original text durthe 1996 draft budget to par-

ing its senate passage.
Prime Minister Lamberto liament. that parliament would then if scuh support was not forthcoming.

The Dini government can meanwhile enjoy its success in having overhauled the pensions system, an objective which has proved beyond a variety of governments which have attempted to grasp the nettle over the past 20 years.

Under the new law, nobody in Italy will be allowed to retire on a full pension unless they have paid contributions for at least 35 years. The threshold will rise gradually to 40 years by the year 2008.

However, some econom-Mr. Scalfaro said Thursday ists are not convicted that the new pension arrangements, which will switch to a

Bank of England argues for interest rate rise to dampen inflation

LONDON (AFP) — British inflation is likely to exceed the official target of 2.5 per cent in 1997 unless interest rates are increased, the Bank of England has warned.

Any delay in increasing rates might mean that monetary policy would have to be tighter than would otherwise have been necessary. The report highlighted a

difference of emphasis between it and Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke about the need for. and timing of, any change in rates; and the bank acknowledged that they faced a dilemma in judging the sig-

The bank said in its quarterly report that under-lying inflation, which ex-cludes the cost of home loans, was "more likely than not" to be above 2.5 per cent in the middle of 1997. The British government

ing underlying inflation to below 2.5 per cent by the spring of 1997. A treasury official later parried the Bank of England's warning, maintaining that Mr. Clarke would set

has committed itself to bring-

policy "to hit his inflation Earlier in the month, the central statistical office reported that the 12-monthly rate for underlying inflation in June had risen to 2.8 per cent from 2.7 per cent in

The bank's report warned that "delay in taking action could ultimately result in interest rates having to go high-er than would ultimately have

been the case." For the past three months Mr. Clarke has refused to raise interest rates from the current figure of 6.75 per cent against the advice of Bank of England Governor Eddie

The Bank of England is not independent from political control, as is the Bundesbank, and therefore does not have a free hand in setting monetary policy. The Bank of France has independence in determining monetary policy provided that it takes

overall economic policy. Mr. Clarke has defended his actions by saying a raise in interest rates would stifle faltering growth of the British

account of the government's

His case was bolstered recently by a downbeat report from the CBI employers's organisation and GDP statistics showing that growth had slowed to 2.9 per cent in the second quarter of 1995 from 3.8 per cent in the first three months of the year.

But the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said that interest rates in Britain might have to be increased this year to 7.75 per cent if the government were to meet its inflation

And the chairman of Nat-West. Britain's secondbiggest clearing bank, Lord Alexander argued that the government had to be prepared to tighten its monetary

The Bank of England in its report acknowledged that the 'dual nature" of the economy, in which inflationary pressures co-existed with a slowing of growth, had made the dilemma over monetary policy "more acute than ever

But it warned that because of the time lags between monetary policy and its effect on inflation, interest rate decisions had to be made before the "puzzles (over the strength of activity, money growth and inflation) are fully resolved.

Economist generally hold that the full effects of changes in interest rates, as part of monetary policy, do not feed through into the entire economy for up to two years although some effects are held within a matter of weeks



"The first time I saw you, I had stars in my eyes. That damaged my eyesight and I've worn contact lenses ever since."

House votes to reform U.S. telecom industry

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved sweeping reforms in the U.S. telecommunications' industry Friday, adopting the most comprehensive bill in 60

The Republican-led House voted by 305 to 117 for the bill, which aims to loosen up competition for broadcast and telephone companies. But the bill has been

strongly criticised by Democratic President Bill Clinton. who has threatened to veto it on the grounds that it would benefit big business over consumers and quash alternative voices in the media.

The Senate passed a similar bill in June, but because its provisions are slightly different, the two congressional bodies will have to hammer out a common bill before a final version can be jointly approved.
"We'll have to review the

bill when it gets in its final form," Mr. Clinton told reporters slightly before the vote was held.

Vice President Al Gore Thursday slammed the bill. describing it as "abhorrent to the public interest and our national economic well-

being."
"This bill has been sold to the highest bidder in every telecommunications industry. The losers are the American people," Mr. Gore said in a statement.

The bill aims to deregulate cable television and local and long-distance telephone companies, allowing them to compete more openly.

But opponents say such competition will benefit only a few large companies, nameiy telephone-and news and entertainment giants. Because of their size, these corporate behemoths would

jumble.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form

· LEHEW

INGOR

GORFTO

Salurday's

soon dominate markets and then raise consumer prices. they charge.

Among the most significant changes is a provision that would eliminate restrictions on cross ownership of local-media. This would allow, for example, a single company to own a cable network or television station along with newspapers and radio stations — all in one

"One person owning the majority of the media outlets in a community is a threat to the very system of democracy upon which our society is built," Mr. Gore said.

But the House also adopted an amendment to the bill to prevent any one company from owning televi-sion stations broadcasting directly to more than 35 per cent of all U.S. viewers.

The bill had originally cal-led for increasing the present 25 per cent limit to 50 per

Mr. Clinton welcomed the amendment, describing it as 'a very important step. The bill also called for scrapping all limits on radio station ownership.

Debate on the bill has helped buoy recent media mergers, including a deal announced Thursday by Chancellor Broadcasting Co. for the acquisition of 17 radio stations belonging to Sham-rock Broadcasting Inc., for \$395 million.

The House also passed a package of amendments making it easier for regional telephone companies, known as "Baby Bells;" to get into the \$68 billion a year longdistance phone business.

Baby Bells, seven in all emerged from the breakup of AT and T, known as "Ma

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

OBNOXIOUS MOTORIST

WAS TOLD

Now arrange the circled letters to

form the surprise answer, as sug-gested by the above carloon.

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argin

of lira no relief for Turkish exporters ANKARA (R) - Turkey

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depreciated its lira at a faster rate than inflation in July but exporters still complain that the currency is overvalued and hurting their business. The first seven months of

this year show the currency depreciated at a slower rate than inflation and analysts saw little chance of this trend changing. "The real appreciation of the lira will not be corrected

even if the central bank depreciates the lira in tandem with the inflation rate in the rest of 1995," said Professor Faruk Selcuk of Bilkent University. The value of a currency

basket of \$1 and 1.5 marks rose by 2.6 per cent in July against a 2.4 per cent increase in inflation measured with wholesale prices for the same month. The basket rose by 23.2 per

cent to 93.690 lira in the first seven months of the year while inflation went up by 34.9 per cent over the same period.

According to a report prepared for the Turkish Exporters assembly (TIM). Turkey may not be able to maintain rising exports unless the present exchange rate policy is altered.

The report said the overvalued Turkish lira would boost imports and squeeze exports. Its author warned the policy could eventually lead to speculative attacks on the currency.

"Now there is no risk of a crisis but the present policy is increasing the possibility." Professor Refik Erzan, who conducted the TIM study, told reporters.

According to real exchange rate indices, developed for Reuters by Professor Selcuk, the lira has been overvalued by 23.4 per cent against the dollar and 7.6 per cent against the mark over the past year.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, **AUGUST 6, 1995**

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is a good day to run around and keep any promises made to others and gain their goodwill. Be active.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Concentrate on financial and other material matters today and reach the right decisions on how to best handle them.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is a good day to handle those personal affairs for which you have little time

during busy work days. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This morning is fine for meditating and analysing how far you have moved towards your goals and how best to proceed.; LEO: (July 22 to August 21)

This is a fine day to seek out your most influential friends who can be of great assistance to you in your career. VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Endeavour to see that bigwig today who can

assist you in whatever is most important to you tonight. LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Be some place 🚑 where you can gain information you need today and then discuss the future with wise individuals,

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is a good day to see an expert who can give you information you need, so try to contact this person.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is a good day to talk with your partners and others so that you can make better arrangements for later tonight.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is a fine day for taking health treatments which you need to become more vigorous. Plan the new week wisely.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Early today set up appointments to see charming persons and have a delightful time with them tonight. Then do just that. PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Spend as much time as possible today so that you can improve conditions there and establish more harmony with kin.

Birthstone of August: Peridot - Golden Quartz



THE Daily Crossword by Harold B. Counts **ACROSS**

- 5 Beat it! 10 Transmitted 14 Lagomorph 15 Raccoon's cousin 16 The Kingston 18 Victims of some tricks 20 Operated 21 Rest 22 Is vanquished 23 Irish district 25 Marsh 26 Terminate
- 27 Small bloomer 32 Thin Man's dog 35 Top-notch 36 "...a man mouse?" 37 Come down 42 Coffee server
- 44 In a frenzy 45 City official 47 Thus 49 Winter mo. 54 Out of the way

57 Drinking bout

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- David 4 Urge 5 Climbed
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11 Cupid

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- 25 Rhine city 27 Goes without food 28 Mauna -29 "-- 222" 30 Hence 31 Chore 32 Plant with arrow shaped leaves

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Puzzle solved:

Peanuts









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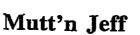
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Committee recommends government bear all losses of Royal Jordanian

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☆☆ THE SPECIAL committee entrusted to study changing Royal Jordanian into a public shareholding company recommended that the government should bear all the losses of the airline, amount to JD 150 million, with the possibility of covering the losses in installments depending on the financial condition of the government. The committee also recommended, as another proposal, that the government take the necessary measures to reduce the airline's indebtedness to a debt / equity ratio of 2.33:1 or 70 per cent total liabilities to 30 per cent equity. Of the measures to be taken, the committee suggested capitalising some of the debts such as those of the Jordan Petroleum Refinery and the Social Security Corporation or settling the installments of the Airbus aircraft.

The committee's report pointed out that if the government opted for the debt reduction, the Royal Jordanian's capital should become JD 210 million, meaning that the government pays JD 290 million, of which JD 80 million would be the amount to cover the previous ownership rights. The report recommended that the government be charged with taking the necessary decisions to transform the airline into a public shareholding company whose shares would be fully owned by the government during a transitory stage. The shares would be sold later, once the airline's operations become positive and it is revaluated

under new conditions. According to the report. the government should continue having shares in order for the state to "continue issuing important and strategic decisions." Also, the government should bear the cost or loss of any unprofitable route if it decides to keep it operating for noncommercial reasons.

The report suggested that the government should supervise and evaluate periodically the programme for change and the comprehensive structural development in addition to the performance of the airline's operations and standards. The report said the government should take the necessary corrective decisions and should continue to grant the new company all the privileges, exemptions and facilities, currently given to the airline, for the next 10 years.

The recommendations included conducting a comprehensive and strategic review of the route network, reconstructing the network and, IBRA: (September 1) October 22) Be some there you can gain in consequently, the adequate aircraft fleet, forming production units to be managed as independent projects, selling as much as possible of auxilliary production units and implementing the system and programmes related to cash flows and financial re-

> The report, proposed utilising the services of experts to implement programmes related to the airline's performances, financial and administrative control, reorganisation of planning and programming, information technology priorities. marketing planning and field sales, studying the management and the human resources potential, reconsidering purchaising policies and procedures and reducing the number of employees (Al

** RECENT STATISTICS show that the number of unemployed lawyers stands at between 3,000 and 4,000 and that requires a reconsideration of the Jordanian universities which teach law (Al Dustour)

Dustour)

India hints at salvaging \$2.8 billion Enron deal

BOMBAY (R) — India Friday held out the prospect of salvaging its largest foreign investment project as U.S. multinational Enron Corp. mulled its legal options after the announcement that its \$2.8 billion deal would be

scrapped.
"When you get into a difficult situation. you find a way to get out of it. I'm sure something like that will happen." said Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha. Rao during a visit to Malaysia.

But Mr. Rao declined to say how the deal with India's western state of Maharashtra might be saved after the state government - run by a coalition opposed to Mr. Rao's nationally-ruling Congress Party - said it had scrapped

Vijay Kalantri, president of an industrial group called the All-India Association of Industries (AIAI), Friday urged Enron to renegotiate the deal and take part in competitive bidding for the contract.

Enron said Thursday it was ready discussions with the Maharashtra government — India's most industrialised state which has Bombay as its capital — but state leaders appeared in no mood to negotiate over the 2,015 megawatt project.

'The case from Enron's side is very weak," said

BEIJING (AFP) - Foreign-

funded firms in China posted

overseas trade volume of

\$46,3 billion in the first half

of 1995, a jump of 29.4 per

cent over the same period last

Imports were up 23 per

cent to \$27.36 billion, while

exports surged 41 per cent to

\$18.94 billion, the China Dai-

ly said Saturday, citing newly

The export growth rate for

foreign-funded companies

was actually lower than the

national average of 44 per

Their import growth rate

also slowed dramatically compared to the 44.5 per cent

posted a year ago - a fact customs officials attributed to

a sharp decline in the import

of machinery as part of fore-

The export of manufac-

tured producted by foreign-

funded firms totalled \$17.8

billion in the January-June

period — 43 per cent more

ign investment.

Markets

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released customs statistics.

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Gopinath Munde who headed a committee that recommended scrapping it.

He told a news conference Friday that any claim for compensation for scrapping the contract would not stand

But Indian Power Minister N.K.P. Salve said in New Delhi that Maharashtra state's apparent reasons for cancelling the Enron deal were similar to arguments raised in courts which had already upheld the validity of the project's contracts.

Maharashtra scrapped the project because it said it was too expensive, the cost of power would be too high and there was no competitive ten-

Mr. Salve told parliament that the matter was essentially between the government of Maharashtra, its electricity board and the Daphol Power Company formed by Enron and its U.S. partners General Electric and Bechtel.

But, he said, "the central government is directly concerned to the extent of its liabilities under the counterguarantees given in favour of Dabhol Power Company and generally about the possible fallout of the decision of the Maharashtra government on the investment climate in In-

Enron Friday was focusing

maintain rapid import-export growth

than a year ago - and

accounted for 94 per cent of

However, the officials

admitted that the figures for

the foreign-funded sector as a

whole hid a significant geog-

Coastal regions all re-

ported increases in the sec-

tor's foreign trade, while

foreign-funded companies in

nine of the country's 18 in-

land provinces saw their

import-export volume slip.

--- Firms in the booming

southern province of Guang-

dong led the country in terms

of foreign trade volume,

Hong Kong remained the

largest market for export

from foreign-funded firms.

States, Japan and the Euro-

in China posted net profits of \$79.75 million in the first six

followed by the United

Meanwhile, foreign banks

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Foreign-funded firms in China

Trading volume at AFM stays thin

shares closed a touch higher at start of weekly trade Saturday in dull activity subdued by lack of institutional support, dealers said.

on its legal options, but said

that so far it had received no

official notice to stop work on

the first phase of the project,

a 695-megawatt power plant

costing \$920 million that is

almost one third complete.

site as usual," an official of

Dabhol Power Company told

Enron and its U.S. part-

ners are expected to file for

damages of several hundreds

million dollars if the govern-

ment formally nullifies the

contract, legal sources said.

Dabhol Power Co. has con-

tracts with 150 suppliers each

of which have their own legal

While Enron says it has

acted in full compliance with

Indian laws, the Maharashtra

government accused the

Houston-based multinational

of providing "misleading" in-

have fallen victim to India's

Political analysts said the

local ruling right-wing Hindu

Alliance of the Shiv Sena and

the Bahratiya Janata Party

(BJP) may have won good

political capital through the

move by being seen to stand

up to a foreign multinational.

National elections are sche-

months of the year - a leap

of 120 per cent from the same

period last year, the People's

Bank of China (PBOC) said

By the end of June, over-

seas banks operating in a 14

Chinese cities hoasted total

assets of \$14.51 billion.

according to the central

Outstanding loans amounted to \$9.81 billion, of

which 92.5 per cent were

made to companies in China

joint ventures. Deposits grew

bank to show a profit or balance its books in a new

market within two vear's

time, but such is the case with

most a senior PBOC official

in charge of foreign bank

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"It is remarkable for a

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to \$2.57 billion.

duled for early next year.

The project appeared to

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Legal experts said that un-

"Work is continuing at the

The index of the Amman Financial Market rose to 145.44 points, up 0.05 per cent from 154.37 on Wednes-

The value of shares traded rose to 718,904 dinars from 704,978 dinars on Wednes-

Trading was thin, with 530 contracts executed for 269,645 shares, with the market generally underpinned by demand on select industrial

blue-chips and some bank Stock.

The market is also cashshort, with a spate of low priced new issues diverting funds from the official exchange to the primary mar-

Dealers say lack of institutional buying in quiet summer trade was being worsened by investor uncertainty ahead of a full parliamentary debate on new economic laws the government wants passed before a

regional economic summit next October in Amman.

In industrials, the leading

sector, two blue-chip drug firms saw some active trading: Dar Al Dawa Development and Investment shed 30 fils to 7.900 dinars. Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing shed 70 fils to 5.140 di-

Jordan Petroleum Refinery shed to files to 10.450 dinars while Jordan Cement, more than 50 per cent state owed, swed 10 fils to 3.800 dinars.

In banks, Arab Bank rose 250 fils to 214.500 dinars. Amman Bank for Investments, focus of recent activity, rose 10 fils to 1.090 di-

In services, market leader Jordan Electric Power, shed 10 fils to 1.690 dinars. United Middle East and Commodore Hotels rose again another 20 fils to 2.240 dinars.

Industrials dominated on turnover of 401,887 dinars and an index fall of 0.31 per cent. Banks had a 195,660 dinars turnover and an index rise of 0.20 per cent. Services trailed with volume of 120,003 dinars and an index rise of 0.54 per cent.

A total of 200,113 shares worth 127,899 dinars changed hands in the new issues primary market.

Euro ravelling the deal may be Disney complex and messy. The climbs out of the red

PARIS (Ř) — Euro Disney has announced its first profit since opening three years ago after packing its Theme Park near Paris with crowd-pullers like the space mountain thrill

The company said net profit for the three months ended June 30 was 170 million francs (\$35.36 million), including an extraordinary gain of 84 million francs (\$17.47

million). The company lost 546 million francs (\$113.6 million) in the year-earlier third quarter when tears that it might close down because of its financial woes reduced the number of

Euro Disney said the improvement reflected growth in revenue and operating margins as well as the debtinterest holiday and other benefits from a financial restructuring last August.

"Given these results we have a chance of breaking even in 1995," a spokesman

Analysts said the results suggested a year-on-year rise in attendance of about 30 percent and deep cost cuts.

"It's further evidence that Euro Disney is a commercially viable concept - that there's nothing wrong with having put a Disney park in the Paris region," said David Klein at broker Natwest Sel-

He and many other vious loss estimates and now predict a profit of around 50 million francs (\$10.4 million) at Euro Disney for the 1994/

ADMAN FINANCIAL MARKET BOUSING SAME CENTER AMORE - SIGHISAKI TELEMONE: 607371 / 60737 ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 05/08/1995

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LANGA PRIVATE ORIVERSITY

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ARAB FAPER CONVERTING & TRADING
BATICRAL STEEL LEDGSTRY
RATICRAL INDUSTRIES
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PORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES
ALADDIN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/SINCO
NATIONAL CARLE & WIRE MARUFACTURING
LORDAN SULPHD-CHEMICALS
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BONN (AFP) - World number one Steffi Graf, formerly implicated in tax evasion charges, admitted Friday she had made a "mistake" in not taking a bigger role in her financial affairs.

Speaking in an exclusive interview on public. German televison station ARD, Graf, 26, also made it clear she was not retiring over her current problems.

Her father Peter. 57, who acts as her business manager. is still being held on tax evasion charges after being arrested on Wednesday.

Steffi Graf's personal wealth is estimated at 100 million marks (71 million dollars), but she regretted not keeping a

closer watch on her money.

"I am going to tend to the consequences and take decisions in the next few days in order to totally assume my responsibility on these things," she said.

Graf admitted she was aware of suspicions by public

prosecutors in mid-May, in a first meeting in her luxury home at Bruehl near Heidelberg.

Several of Steffi Graf's properties were searched on May

23 at the request of prosecutors. "It has been difficult for me to concentrate on the court

these last few weeks. My tennis has not occupied all my thoughts," she added.
It was the first time Graf had spoken publicly since her

father Peter was arrested. He is being held in a prison hospital near Ludwigsburg and Judge Johannes Juelch said Friday it was not possible to predict how long Graf would be held. "Investigations

have only just begun." he said. He denied reports that Graf had suffered a heart attack. 'He is depressed but otherwise in good health," he said. Juelch added Peter Graf's lawyer had still not com-

menced any legal procedure against the committal. He confirmed investigations against Steffi Graf were closely linked to those against her father. But Juelch added there was no reason to charge the tennis star herself. Steffi Graf also poured water on rumours she may quit tennis over the affair. "I never thought for a single moment about retirement. This thought never occurred to me," she

But friends previously said she was devastated by her father's arrest and was on the verge of giving up. "She is genuinely thinking of retiring. She has never been as close," one friend said.

"I think she now needs the support of a lot of people. Public opinion, the German tennis federation, and the media must comfort her so that she can overcome this situation," said Klaus Hofsaess, the German national

According to the magazine Der Spiegel, a company called Sunpark Sports BV was created in 1987 in Holland by Peter Graf to both look after the millions of dollars earned promoting his daughter and to hide the money from German tax authorities.

Graf also has lucrative deals with car manufacturers, beauty products and a line of sports clothes bearing her



Steffi Graf

Injured Werdel Witmeyer loses in quarterfinals

Slowed by a strained left quadricep Friday, Marianne Werdel Witmeyer hardly resembled the player who upset second-ranked Arantxa Sanchez Vicario just a day earlier in the Toshiba Tennis Clas-

"It" probably should be Webster's definition for disappointment and frustration," said Werdel Witmeyer, who fell 6-2, 6-2 to France's Sandrine Testud in a quarterfinal match. '

ing than this."
Werdel Witmeyer, seeded 11th and ranked 25th in the world, said she couldn't put any weight on her left leg. The injuryf affected her serve and also limited her ability to

chance of winning when you can't really move around very well," said Werdel Witmeyer, who also has been slowed by a strained lower back.

doesn't get any more frustrat- ground strokes and power

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serves that were such a factor against Sanchez Vicario were Spain easily advanced to a absent Friday. Testud took full advantage, breaking Werdel Witmeyer's serve on all five break chances.

"She didn't serve but as, good as she used to do it because of her leg," Testud, said. "She couldn't serve strong. It was good for me."

Testud, ranked 62nd in the world, faces Lisa Raymond of Wayne, Pennslyvania. Raymond, ranked 22nd and seeded ninth, defeated 16thseeded Giri Fernandez of Aspen. Colorado. 6-3, 4-6. 6-3 in the featured night

Spain easily advanced to a semifinal showdown Satur-Pierce, seeded third, beat

Australia's Rachel McQuillan 6-2., 6-4; and Martinez, seeded second, routed Sweden's Asa Carlsson 6-0. Pierce, who lost just five

games in her firt two matches, looked as if she would roll right through McQuillan. But after winning the first set, Pierce ran into some difficulty in the second.

"I felt that Rachel played extremely welll." Pierce said. As expected, third-ranked "She hit a lot of good first Mary Pierce of France and serves, especially in the

second set she started feeling better."

But with the players on serve at 4-4 in the second. Pierce won her srvice game and closed out the match by breaking McQuillan's serve.

"I felt that Rachel was starting to play better."
Pierce said. "I didn't really want to let her have a chance to get into the match."

The easy victory was a departure for Martinez, who had struggled in winning her first two matches by the identical scores of 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.

"She made too many unforced errors." Martinez said. "But I felt much more comfortable with my game.

Bennett completes sweep of Evans

PASADENA (AFP) — Fifteen-year-old Brooke Bennett secured her place above Janet Evans as the new queen of U.S. women's distance swimmers here Friday, taking her third title at the U.S. Swimming Championship.

Bennett won the 1,500metre freestyle in 16 minutes, 17.84 seconds on the final day of the U.S. qualifier for next week's Pan Pacific Swim Championships in Atlanta at the 1996 Olympic Venue.

Bennett, who already beat Evans in the 400m and 800m finals, had the second-fastest 1,500m in the world this year.

"The first 1,000 felt really good. My stroke was smooth," Bennett said. "In the last 500 I got tired so I tried to hold my stroke and finish as hard as I could. In a race this long, if it starts to hurt, it's tough to keep

going."
World-record holder

Evans, who was fifth in 16:27.99, decided afte the defeat to skip next week's Pan-Pacs and will instead have her inflamed tonsils removed and return to training August 30, two days after her 24th birth-

"I thought I would be hurting at the end and I was," Evans said. "If anything, it

was good training."
Barcelona Olympic Champion Summer Sanders, who came out of retirement only four months ago, made the PanPacs team after having spent the past 18 months away from the water.

"I was going to be a com-mentator at the Pan Pacifics, but to tell the truth, it's good to be a swimmer," Sanders

Sanders finished second in the 200 individual medley. Allison Wagner won the U.S. title in two minutes, 15.99 seconds with Sanders, the 1992 Olympic winner in the 200 butterfly, second in

"I was really surprised at the time," Sanders said. "I wanted to go 2:16 but I said, 'Summer, you can't do

that." Amy Van Dyken set the only U.S. women's record of the meet in the final women's event, winning the 50 freestyle in 25.13 seconds, shaving five-hundredths of a second off her mark set at the 1994 world championships.

"I didn't feel like an American record," Van Dyken said. "I was surprised at the time. I breathed once at 25 metres. Hopefully I'll swim faster next week. I'm hoping to break 25 seconds but you never know what will hap-

Chad Carvin, runner-up in the 1,500m freestyle, became the only U.S. man to qualify for the PanPacs in three individual events. he won the 200 freestyle title and also qualified as the 400 freestyle

SPORTS IN BRIEF

June 4. "The ratio of testosterone to epitestosterone was

analysed at 44 to 1 which exceeded the permitted limit of

six to one." said Ian Emmerson, president of the British

Cycling Federation. Lynch has the right of appeal.

Yankees purchase Strawberry's contract

DETROIT (AP) - The New York Yankees purchased the

minor-league contract of outfielder Darryl Strawberry

Friday from triple-a Columbus and designated outfielder

Luis Polonia for assignment. In 31 minor-league games at

three different levels, Strawberry hit .286 with eight home-

runs and 35 rbis. Polonia hit .261 with 15 rbis and 10 stolen bases in 67 games with the Yankees.

MIDDLESBROUGH (AFP) — Middlesbrough boss

Bryan Robson issued an ultimatum to Tottenham Hotspur.

on Saturday and said he will not be increased his bid for

unsettled striker Nick Barmby. Robson dismissed reports

on Friday that he had made a 5.25 million pound (about

Robson fires Barmby ultimatum

Argentina, Brazil win Lynch banned after drugs test MANCHESTER (R) — British track cycling champion Shawn Lynch was suspended for 12 months on Saturday in Youth after failing a dope test. Lynch, a South African with a British racing licence, provided a sample which exceded the testosterone ratio during a track meeting at Leicester on WorldCup

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) -Brazil and Argentina both won matches Friday in the second day of the Youth World Cup Soccer tourna-

Brazil defeated Germany 3-0, while Argentina logged the same score against Portugal, and both Latin American teams showed they would be among the favourites to win the championship for youths under 17 years old.

Brazil's win puts it on top of Group D on a difference of goals over Oman, which defeated Canada 2-1. Group D played in Ibarra, 75 kilometres north of Quito.

Argentina is the leader in Group B. It is followed by Costa Rica, which scored two goals late in its match against Guinea, to win Friday hight 2-0. Guinea and Portugal fill out the group. which plays in Cuenca, 310 kilometres south of the capital of Quito.

Group C play saw two ties. Nigeria and Qatar parted I-1, while Spain and Australia battled to a 2-2 standoff in Riobamba, 160 kilometres south of Quito.

The tournament started Thursday with the Group A matches. Ecuador beat the United States 2-0 and Ghana defeated Japan 1-0.

\$8.3 million) bid for the England star. But he admitted he was keen to take the palyer to the north east and told Spurs chairman Alan Sugar that he will not get involved in an auction for the player. The Boro boss also insisted Sugar was wrong to suggest that the offer for Barmby includes a series of clauses which will determine how the fee is paid. On Friday Sugar said: "We don't know what is meant by money in Middlesbrough — in London it's the stuff you can put in the bank. The so-called increased deal is complicated, whereby Middlesbrough might pay more on the basis of a lot of its." But Robson, who has followed the progress of 21-year-old Barmby at youth, under-21, B and full levels with England responded on Saturday by insisting: "I won't become involved in auctions. I have a valuation of Barmby and it is up to Spurs whether they

Celtic get green light

agree with it."

GLASGOW (AFP) - Celtic's pre-season friendly against Newcastle was given the go-ahead just a few hours before the match was due to kick off on Saturday afternoon. A last-minute hitch on Friday had threatened the fixture when council officials refused to grant a safety certificate for the new 26,000 stand at the Glasgow ground. But early Saturday morning. Celtic were granted the necessary paperwork for the 31,000 sell-out match to go ahead. Lifelong Celtic fan and pop star Rod Stewart is expected to mark the re-opening of Parkhead after the Bhoys spent last season at Hampden Park, home of the Scottish national home. A club spokeswoman said: "Everything is fine and the match is on. We have been given the safety certificate for the new stand,'

Racer released from hospital

INDIANAPOLIS (AFP) — Indy-car driver Danny Sullivan, who crashed in a race last Sunday, was released from Methodist Hospital here Friday but is unlikely to return to the series this season. Sullivan, 45, had two steel plates inserted into his abdomen Tuesday during surgery to repair a broken pelvis and would have only a month to recover. "I'm going to be on crutches, a cane or a walker for about six weeks," the former Indy 500 champion said. "It doesn't look good for the season because there are only four races left." Juan Fangio II will drive Sullivan's car in Sunday's race at Lexington, Ohio.

Parma beats U.S. squad

EAST RUTHERFORD (AFP) - Tomas Brolin of Sweden scored the winning goal in the 74th minute and U.S. star Alexi Lalas headed a goal into his own net here Friday, giving Parma a 2-1 victory over the United States. The UEFA Cup champions from Italy advanced to the finals of the Parmalat Cup on Sunday against either Argentina's Boca Juniors and Portugal's Benfica. Brolin, who came on in the second half, kicked home an eight-metre rebound off U.S. goalkeeper Juergen Sommer for the winner. Parma held on despite playing a man short the final six minutes after Alberto DiChiara took a second the final six minutes after Alberto Dichara took a second yellow card for a rough tackle. The Lalas blunder came in the 35th minute and produced the only first-half scoring. As he tried to knock away a crossing pass from Gianfranco Zola to Filippo Inzaghi. Lalas lofted the ball past Sommer. Mike Lapper equalised for the U.S. team off a corner kick in the 62nd minute. Newly acquired Figure 2. in the 62nd minute. Newly acquired European player of the year Hristo Stoichkov of Bulgaria watched the match from the bench while Faustino Asprilla did not accompany the

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Opening lead: Ten of ...
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of the most colorful characters on
the bridge scene and not just because of the host of berets he posseased and wore all the time. He had
a tremendous sense of humor and
more often than not he was the goat
in the tales he spun. This was one of
his favorites. Fishy came to the table of two young men whom he didn't recognize. He had headly sat down before

On lead with the ace and king of hearts in his hand, Fishy decided he might as well make sure of a top

score by doubling.

All would have been well had the auction ended there. However, the youngsten, destined to become two of the leading West Coast players, knew their opponents by reputation and South decided Fishbein would not have doubled without two sure tricks. South, therefore, corrected to seven club, on the theory that West seven clube, on the theory that West had a 3-to-1 chance of leading the wrong suit. Fishy doubled again, more out of spite than any convic-tion he was going to defeat the

Declarer's analysis was right on target—West led a diamond. Even so, declarer had only 12 tricks. However, declarer simply cashed the three top spades and six winners in clubs, coming down to A K 2 of diamonds in dummy and the 10 7 of hearts and one diamond in hand. East was a dead duck. Forced to hold three diamonds to prevent the two of diamonds from becoming the fulfilling trick. Fishy let go of the ace and king of hearts in the hope that West held the ten. Unfortunately, declarer had that card and it was now high. Seven clubs doubled and made!

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BRIEF

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World Athletics Championships

Mitchell's injury hurts U.S. relay chances

GOTHENBURG (Agencies)

— A leg muscle injury that knocked Olympic bronze medallist Dennis Mitchell out of the World Championship's 100 metres on Saturday could also end U.S. dominance of the 4×100 metres relay.

Mitchell, who crashed out of the first round of the 100 with a cramp in his left leg, had been scheduled to anchor the sprint relay for the United States, who have won all four world titles in the event.

The 29-year-old American said it was unlikely he would compete.

"I want to give the United States the best opportunity," Mitchell said. "And the way I am feeling, I think me running on the relay is not possi-

Without Mitchell, who helped U.S. 4×100 metre relay teams get world records in 1992 and 1993, American 100 champion Mike Marsh said the Americans were so inexperienced that after 200 metre runner Jeff Williams Probably our next best sprinter is Gwen Torrence." Torrence is the Olympic women's 200 metre cham-

The Americans will also be denied the talents of Carl Lewis, a relay alternate, who pulled out of the championships on Thursday because a hamstring injury.

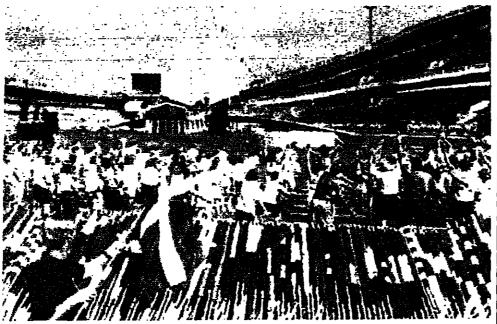
Spokesman Mike Takaha. said the U.S. coaches wanted to wait a day to see if there was a chance Mitchell might still be able to run the relay next weekend.

Takaha said if Mitchell was unable to run, Tony McCall, a college student with no international experience, would be called up to replace

Mitchell's absence would

ensure Canada, who have the year's two fastest sprinters in Donovan Bailey and Bruny Surin, would be favourites for the relay gold medal:

Even before Mitchell's injury, the Canadians were looking like strong challen-



row of national flags as participants rehearse Sweden (AFP photo) for the opening ceremony of the 5th IAAF

gers to the U.S. team, who also include Maurice Greene, Jon Drummond and Marsh. Mitchell said he hoped to

return to the European circuit before the season ends 'and kick some burn." *One of those lanes (in the World Championships 100 metres final) belongs to me.

and I'm going to get it back," Mitchell said. Although he had suffered cramps about five days ago while training, Mitchell said he had felt fine on Saturday. "I felt excellent warming up," he said, "And I have

been having world record

"But when you are running workouts at that level, you are on a very thin line. You could blow up or you could keep everything together. I didn't blow up but somebody lit the wick, I was on the

verge of blowing up.
"You have to be willing to take those kind of chances. I took it, and it worked against me this time. But it's not going to stop me from fighting and it's not going to stop me from coming back."

Ottey convinced she is 100m champ

Two years have not shaken Merlene Ottey's conviction that she is the world champion at 100 metres. However, the books show it is Gail

After one of the closest finishes in athletics history, judges needed specialised photo finish equipment before giving Devers gold over Ottey at the 1993 World Championships in Stuttgart, leaving the Jamaican heartbroken

"I still believe I'm the champion. I still believe I won," she said. "Since they did not give me the gold the last time, I want it now." Any medal this year could make her the most decorated athlete at the World Cham-

So far, only two of her 10 medals have been gold. Carl Lewis, also has 10 medals. Even at 35, few doubt Ottey could add another gold, although she prefers to consider herself an underdog. In the 200 she is truly the

defending champion. But both Gwen Torrance and Russia's Irina Privalova have outperformed her this year.

'Strange, it is the first time in many years that I am not a favourite," she said. "There are two targets to aim for." Devers is not one of them After doubling in Stuttgart, she only aims for the 100 metres hurdles this time. In the controversial race, Devers was given a time of 10.81

seconds, edging Ottey by .01

The race was so close that it took several minutes before the result was announced. The Jamaicans immediately filed a protest and as far as Ottey is concerned it still stands. The medals had to be presented a day late and gold went to the American.

Otherwise Ottey has mellowed considerably. "I have been running for

21 years now. It's been a lot of stress. I want to enjoy the last few years," said Ottey, who lives in Rome. She said she will go for another year, through the Atlanta Ólympics.

NBA accuses 14 players of wrongful interference in labour negotiations

NEW YORK (AP) — The NBA, which last month locked out its players, filed an unfair labour practice complaint Friday against 14 player agents, charging they improperly interfered in labour negotiations.

The complaint filed with the National Labour Relations Board named members of the agents advisory council of the player's association. The council, made up of the game's most powerful agents, began the effort to dissolve the union, a process that helped derail a tentative labour agreement in June.

Also named are Michael Jordan, Patrick Ewing and 14 other players who have been the most vocal advocates of decertification and vocal critics of the rejected agreement.

The NLRB has already been brought into basketball's labour mess by the dissident players to oversee the

The NBA said the agent group is improperly attempting to seize control of the union's negotiations with the league. "The conduct of the agent group violates the most fundamental principles of federal labour law," NBA deputy commissioner Russ Granik said in a statement. "The agents cannot be allowed for their own economic self interest, to destroy a collective bargaining process that, until now, has enabled the NBA and its players to work

constructively together for the past 30 years. Among the agents named in the complaint filed with the NLRB is David Falk, agent for Jordan and Ewing and arguably the game's most influential agent. Falk said the complaint wrongly implies the players are too unintelligent to make their own decisions.

"I don't understand why the league continues to depre-cate its players this way," he said. "Secondly I think it's beneath the character of David Stern and Russ Granik to make baseless accusations against people. I am surprised and disappointed the league would resort to low-level name

Also named in the complaint is lawyer Jeffrey Kessler.

who is representing Jordan, Ewing and the 14 others in a federal antitrust suit against the league that challenges the

salary cap and college draft.
"It's a silly charge." Kessler said. "There's no basis for it. It's a desperate act and it's almost beneath the dignity of the league to file something like this."

Kessler said the agents group is not a labour organisation and thereby not subject to unfair labour practice charges. The complaint alleged the agents defrauded players into signing forms saying they no longer wished to be represented by the union and submitted forged signatures to the NLRB as part of a petition seeking decertification.

The agents also were accused of "threatening, intimidating and undermining representatives of the NBPA."

It's childish and petulant." Kessler said of the charges Since late June, the fight over decertification has divided NBA players and the leadership of the National Basketball Players Association has come under fire for the way it has conducted labour talks. Until this week, the union had waged a campaign against the agents and players pushing for decertification, saying it wanted to make a deal with the

On Wednesday, however, union executive director Simon Gourdine set a deadline of midnight Tuesday for reaching an agreement.

After that, the union will agree to relinquish its authority to represent the players, in effect joining the decertification

Negotiations broke off Thursday with no progress made towards an agreement.

The league has opposed decertification, and commissioner David Stern said Thursday if the union dissolves, the lockout would continue indefinitely.
On Friday, the NLRB set Aug. 30 and Sept. 7 as dates

for the players' union decertification election. At various NLRB offices around the country, players will vote on whether the union should continue to represent them.

PSG defeat French champions Wimbledon ticket prices go up

WIMBLEDON (AP) -Tickets for next year's Wimbledon will cost more. the All England Club has nnounced.

The price for the most ought after ticket - Sunday's men's final on centre court — will increase from 50 pounds (\$80) to 52 ounds (\$83.20).

Tickets for Saturday's women's final and Friday's semifinal remain unchanged at 47 pounds In general, tickets for

matches on Centre Court and Court I are up by I pound:(\$1:60):with tickets for some dates on those courts remaining unchanged.

PARIS (AFP) - Paris Saint brought PSG their first win of Germain staked an earlythe season and their first at season claim to the French Nantes since November 8 championship on Friday as 1989. It also pushed PSG from 13th to fourth spot in

into the match.

Youri Djorkaeff, PSG's

close season signing from Monaco, said: "We were

very certain of ourselves

tonight. We were keyed up,

but not nervous and always

However Nantes, despite

the absence of striker Patrice

Loko, in a psychiatric clinic

after a rampage across Paris

last month; dominated the

believed we could win."

they won 2-1 at Nantes. Nantes only lost once in the table. A delighted PSG coach last year's title charge, but Luis Fernandez said afterhave already notched up their first loss in just three outings wards: "It began like last so far this season. year with Nantes scoring ev-

Super sub Pascal Nouma, who neither started nor finished the match, hit the winner for PSG with just seven minutes to go. Earlier, Japhet N'Doram

had opened the scoring for Nantes, only for Brazilian Rai to level the scores. Nouma went on for

Panamanian Dely Valdes in the 74th minute, and under relentless rain, shot home from a centre-from Laurent Fourtier. But he had to leave the field in the 86th minute after his second vellow card. However Nouma's goal

In the second minute, Nantes sliced through the Paris defence and Wally Dieng was forced to make a strong tackle on Jocelyn Gourvennec, who had to leave the field on a stretcher. Nantes did not take long to

make their breakthrough. In the seventh minute, Benoit Cauet fed Reynald Pedros, who flighted an accurate ery time, but this time we cross from the left to N'Dorshowed charter to come back am at the far post.

N'Doram, without hesitating, rifled a first-time volley into the top right hand corner to give PSG keeper and current French player of the year Bernard Lama no chance.

Despite pressure from Nantes' N'Doram, Claude Makelele, and Pedros, it was PSG who scored next. In the 23rd minute, Rai, world champion with Brazil last year, was on target with a trademark diving header from six yards to equalise at



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Iraq hands U.N. data on germ warfare research Baghdad to 'do everything' to end sanctions

BAGHDAD (Agencies) -Iraq has given the United Nations a written declaration on its past biological weapons programme and stated determination to do everything to get U.N. sanctions lifted.

The Iraqi side handed over a written declaration on its biological programme," Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) charged with disarming Iraq under the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire, told reporters on Saturday.

He said the declaration included the history of Iraq's biological research program-me and a technical description of what had been

The Iraqis, he said, also provided documents in support of their claim that they had destroyed the biological arms they had produced along with related research

equipment.
"That is of course a matter which has to be verified." he added. Furthermore meetings were planned with senior Iraqi officials on Saturday, Mr. Ekeus said.

Asked how he described Iraq's declaration. Mr. Ekeus said Saturday: "Well, it is a history of the programme and it is a technical description of what has been achieved and there is some documentation added to the declaration supporting some of the statements they made in the dec-

CAIRO (AFP) - Egypt has

tried to control neighbouring

Sudan ever since the Islamic

leadership in Khartoum came

to power in a 1989 coup.

Sudanese President Omar Al

Beshir charged in an inter-

view published on Saturday.

He told the London-based

Saudi newspaper Ash-Sharq

Al Awsat that Egyptian offi-

cials "cannot come to terms

with the fact that Sudan has

an independent leadership

and they want a role in all its

The Egyptian government

wants a regime at its dispos-

al that it can guide as it

wants, to the right or the

left," the president said. It

wanted to name a political

adviser in Khartoum when

the Islamic leadership took

Mr. Beshir also criticised

the Arab League for its fai-

lure to mediate between the

two countries over the dis-

puted border region of

Halaib, following Egypt's

accusations Sudan was be-

hind an attempt on President

PARIS (AFP) - Nearly

two weeks after a bomb

killed seven people on a

packed Paris subway train

in France's most deadly ter-

rorist attack in a decade,

new evidence points to-wards Algerian-linked fun-

No credible claims have

been made for the attack,

but the so-called Islamic

connection now all but

dominates inquiries into

who planted the bomb

which ripped apart an even-

ing rush-hour train at Saint

Michel Station on July 25,

killing seven and injuring

are looking into a Belgian

connection in the attack af-

ter discovering that the

camping gas canister used fitted Belgian specifications.

The information in-

rather than French ones.

creasingly tends to confirm

detectives' worst fears: that

the blast is the work of

Armed Islamic Group

(GIA), the most hardline

group struggling against the

government in France's for-

mer North African colony.

tectives have officially re-

fused to rule out any theory

for the blast, which for

several days threw Paris

into a state of tension re-.

miniscent of the mid-1980s

when a 10-month wave of

Iranian-linked attacks left

13 people dead and more

Initial speculation as to

the perpetrators was shared

equally between Muslim

than 300 mjured.

French anti-terrorist de-

In particular detectives

damentalists.

more than 80.

Hosni Mubarak's life.

power in 1989, he added.

to control Sudan

Bashir says: Egypt wants

destroyed its germ warfare programme," a matter which has to be verified.

"The Iragi side explained that what they have produced (in biological weapons) has been destroyed. That is a statement. Of course, it is a matter which has to be verified," Mr. Ekeus added.

The government newspaper Al Jumhouriya said in a front-page editorial Iraq was determined to do everything possible to end the U.N. embargo imposed for its 1990. invasion of Kuwait.

We confirm to everyone that Iraq has made up its mind to put an end to sanctions as quickly as possible. using various means and methods," the paper de-

The declaration is the first written document handed to the U.N. on biological weapons since Iraq admitted last month that its research in this area was geared for offensive purposes.

The biological file is the last remaining issue between Iraq and UNSCOM, which has said it would not recommend a lifting of a U.N. ban on Iraqi oil exports unless it ws satisfied with Iraqi disclosures and verifications of past

Iraq has warned that it will halt cooperation with Mr. Ekeus if he does not end his mission by the end of August. The envoy said closing the ration." biological file would depend He said Iraq insisted it had on the quality of Iraqi dec-

"If the Arab League does

not budge when conflict be-

tween two countries leads to

armed incidents, when will

any role in the abortive assas-

sination attempt on Mr.

Mubarak in Addis Ababa on

June 26, says a soldier and two of its policemen were killed in clashes with Egyp-

tian troops in Halaib within a

The president said that

Washington's decision in

1993 to add Sudan to a list of

countries allegedly support-

ing international terrorism

was based on "reports from

the Egyptian intelligence ser-

accept "visits to regions

where the so-called terrorist

Mr. Beshir also said that

relations with the Gulf Arab

monarchies, strained by

Khartoum's support for Baghdad in the 1990-1991 cri-

sis after Iraq invaded Kuwait.

fundamentalists and Serbs

angry at French President

Jacques Chriac's hardline

But evidence pointing to-

wards Algeria has been

The first indications were

eyewitness accounts from

passengers on or near the

targetted train. One passen-

ger reported a "North Afri-

can looking" man running

away from the train at

Chatelet, the stop before

Saint Michel, minutes be-

fore the blast. He allegedly

made an obscene gesture.

Arab men sitting in the carriage in which the blast

occurred. As they got off at Chatelet one of them told

his friend, "there will be a

party at Saint Michel

pointed in the same direc-

tion: Scientists pieced

together a 3-kilo camping

gas canister into which ex-

plosives had been packed.

The GIA is specifically

known to have used such

bombs in its violence cam-

paigns in Algeria in the

the nearest the investiga-

tion has come to a credible

claim for the blast emerged

in an underground Islamic

fundamentalist newsletter,

made claims of GIA attacks

in the past, did not specifi-

cally say it was their work

The leaflet, which has

El Ansar, in Stockholm.

At the end of last week

Then the type of bomb

Another said he saw two

stance in Bosnia.

training camps are located,"

he said

Paris blast probe focuses

on Algerian militants

had improved.

Sudan was prepared to

week of the attempt.

Khartoum, which denies

it?" he asked.

larations and how quickly his

experts carry out verification.
The government newspaper also slammed U.S. President Bill Clinton for saying the United States would not lift the sanctions until Baghdad fully adhered to all post-Gulf war resolutions. It seemed Iraq's conflict was not with the U.N. Security Council but with Washington, the newspaper said.

Praising Mr. Ekeus for saying the lifting of sanctions was the responsibility of the council. Jumhouriva said: "It (Iraq) is serious in its readiness to cooperate with various parties and respect their vital interests provided they are legitimate.

Commenting on Mr. Clinton's remarks, Mr. Ekeus said after arriving in Baghdad on Friday that all members of the council should decide on the sanctions, not only the United States.

In Washington on Thursday. Madeleine Albright, the U.S. ambassador to the U.N., said Iraq could not be trusted to volunteer full data on its biological warfare stocks. She said Baghdad had admitted to producing enough agents to kill every man, woman and child on Earth.

She said Iraq's biological warfare programme was begun earlier than it had admitted and involved more biological agents and more facilities and people than had been

Palestinian

identifies

Tel Aviv

suicide

bomber

SIDON, Lebanon (AP) - A

Muslim fundamentalist

Palestinian who claimed he

blew up an Israeli bus last

month in a suicide attack said

in a farewell statement re-

leased Saturday that victory

against Israel could only be

achieved through holy war.

small fundamentalist splinter

group, claimed responsibility

earlier this week for the July

24 bombing near Tel Aviv in

which six Israelis were killed.

It identified the suicide

bomber as Jamal Fayez

In Saturday's statement, faxed to media offices in this

southern provincial capital,

the group released what it said was Mr. Yousef's farewell address.

Mr. Yousef said the bomb-

ing was his "legitimate duty" and called for Palestinian uni-

ty to counter the Israelis.

"Unity is power and divi-sion is defeat." he said.

because it is the key to con-

quest." he told fellow Palesti-

Mr. Yousef said he was a

30-year-old Palestinian, mar-

ried with three children and

carrying a Jordanian pass-

port. He lived with his family

in the Palestinian refugee

camp in the northern Jorda-

(In response to a question

about an Israeli newspaper

report that the perpetrator of

the attack came from Jordan.

the government last week

said it was not contacted by

the Israeli government over

Earlier, claims circulated

But these claims could not

be immediately authenti-

cated. Hamas had been held

responsible for previous simi-

Sheikh Ahmad Mohanna.

a Sunni Muslim cleric who

heads Hezbullah-Palestine.

criticised Hamas for claiming

blood of any martyr to be

falsified and others take cre-

dit for our struggle," he said

in an interivew with the London-based. Arabic-

Hizbullah-Palestine is be-

lieved to have some 50 mostly

Sunni Palestinian followers in

Lebanon. It is not linked to

Hezbullah, or Party of God.

the Iran-backed Lebanese

Shiite Muslim group which

has been leading a guerrilla war against Israeli occupation

forces in South Lebanon.

language daily Al Hayat.

We do not accept that the

in Israel suggested Hamas

had carried out the attack.

nian city of Irbid.

the case).

lar operations.

responsibility.

"Do not give up on Jihad

Yousef.

nians.

Hezbullah-Palestine, a

group

But Mr. Christopher also

the war. "On behalf of all Amer-

this important and noble en-deavour," he said.

Mr. Cam stressed that the new relationship must be one of "mutual respect, equality and mutual cooperation," reflecting Vietnamese fears

ist system. "I do hope relations will develop in a positive way in keeping with our expecta-tions today," Mr. Cam said as the two men faced reporters from behind a green baize-covered table in the Ornate, French-era state

affairs in Hanoi pending nomination of an ambassa-

dor.
"Closer engagement is an America's interest, first and foremost to achieve the fullest possible accounting, but also because Vietnam is a virbrant country in a region of great importance to the United States," Mr. Christopher said in his arrival re-

> "We can build a bridge of cooperation between America and Vietnam."

His arrival was an extraordinary moment in the troubled history between the two countries.

Immediately after World War II, the United States sought to help France maintain control of its southeast Asian colony. After the French were defeated and the country was divided between the Communist north and non-Communist south, the United States began a 10vear effort to save the south from being overrun by the

The effort cost some 58,000 American lives and killed untold numbers of Vietnamese.

But U.S. firepower and an intensive bombing campaign against the north were not not enough. In April 1975, the last Americans were evacuated from Saigon and shortly after the North Viet-

namese unified the country. Mr. Christopher's military adviser, Lt. Gen. Daniel Christman, recalled his service in Vietnam from July 1969 to July 1970 as a 101st Airborne Division company

He said that like many others at the time, he counted the days and left with "a sense of relief."

This marks Mr. Christman's first return to Vietnam. He said he agreed with the decision to establish relations with the former enemy, but he conceded that 'doesn't mean we don't go back with a great deal of memory and some pain."

Before going to Vietnam, Mr. Christopher spent a day in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, to get a firsthand look at a country that suffered horribly on the margins of the Viet-nam War.

After the United States left aigon in 1975 and the north Vietnamese unified the coun-Cambodia was taken over by the Khmer Rouge guerrillas, a radical Communist group blamed for the deaths of more than 1 million Cambodian between 1975

and 1979. Mr. Christopher also met with government officials and promised to press for congressional approval of mostfavoured-nation trade status for Cambodia as well as to maintain the current level of foreign aid to the Southeast Asian country. Cambodia is receiving \$40 million in the current fiscal year.

Jordania

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Major entangled ... in condom campaign row

LONDON (R) - A controversial British condom campaign has been furiously attacked by Roman Catholics in a row which has entangled Prime Minister John Major, The prime minister is one of the listed supporters of the British Safety Council's safe sex campaign, which has fea-tured a picture of the Pope on its promotional leaflets with the slogan: "Eleventh commandment — thou shalt at ways wear a condom." The Catholic weekly Universe newspaper has branded the campaign deeply offensive. In an open letter to Mr. Major in its latest edition, the Universe demanded that he "explain to the Catholic community why you feel it right to associate yourself with the mockery of a much-loved and: well-respected religious leader." A Downing Street spokesman said Friday: "If there is a letter, we will be responding to it." "We have achieved what we set out to do - not to upset Catholics but to stimulate debate," said 4 Fiona Harcombe, one of the campaign's organisers.

Researchers set world record on pi calculation

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese researchers have set a new world record in calculating pi. or the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter, taking the irrational number to the 3.22 billionth decimal place, Kyodo News Service said. The pre-vious record was the 2.26 billionth decimal place set in 1991 by a group of resear-chers at Columbia University in the United States. The researchers included Yasumasa Kaneda, an assistant professor at the University of Tokyo's Computer Centre, and Daisuke Takahashi, a graduate students at the university, Kyodo said. Although pi to the 3.22 billionth decimal place has no scientific value, "it is an attempt to work the computer to the maximum of its capacity," Kaneda told Kyodo. "It will contribute to improving the method of sci-entific calculation." Kaneda's oup used a supercomputer at the university to twice calculate the number, taking 36 hours 52 minutes and 53 hours 43 minutes.

Dog bites Bonn environment minister

BONN (AFP) - A normally passive dog bit German Environment Minister Angela Markel's leg while she was cycling in the countryside, causing an injury that required brief hospitalisation. police said. The incident happened near Eberswalde, in the federal state of Brandenburg, eastern Germany. Ms. Merkel, 41, was briefly treated in hospital for injuries to her thigh. The owner of Bessi, a five-year-old bitch, said the dog had never bitten anyone before. "Lots of cyclists go by here, but until now she has never bitten anybody. he said. He said he even had given up using her for hunting because she was not aggressive enough, but he gave no reason why the environment minister had been singled out for the attack.

Beijing divorce rate reaches record 25%

BELIING (AP) - The divorce rate in the Chinese capital is reaching levels com-parable to the West, in a record one in four marriages ending in breakup, the offi-cial Xinhua News Agency reported. The report said husbands are to blame in 70 per cent of the divorces, in some cases because they acquire girlfriends after becoming wealthy. In the other 30 per cent, wives were blamed for not respecting their in-laws and putting too many restrictions on their husbands. The Civil Affairs Ministry says. that the highest divorce rates are among those who work in the arts and media and among the well-educated. The report did not give a nationwide divorce rate, and there have been conflicting figures in the past. Divorce is still regarded by most Chinese as shameful, but attitudes towards ending marriages are changing as Chinese society modernises.

U.S., Vietnam pledge new era of peace despite bitterness of the past

KING RECEIVES TOKEN GIFT: His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday receives a token gift from the Aqaba mayor and

Acknowledging the bitter past but pledging to open a new era of peace, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam signed letters of diplomatic recognition Satur-

We have concluded the time has come to renew-our ties and move forward into a new era," Mr. Christopher said after raising a glass of champagne to Mr. Cam.

gave a look backward, saying that establishment of relations had been made possible only because of the efforts of both sides to account for Americans still missing from

icans, I express my gratitude to the many who heolped in

that friction may develop in the future over Vietnam's determination to keep its social-

Mr. Christopher is the first

U.S. Secretary of State to visit Vietnam since the war years of the 1960s and '70s and the first ever to go to Hanoi.

members of the city's Municipal Council (Petra photo)

His visit opened with an airport ceremony at which he watched U.S. military personnel receive four wooden boxes containing human remains, possibly of Americans missing from the war.

The boxes were placed in aluminum containers that were then draped with American flags and loaded onto air force C-141 jets for a flight to an identification laboratory

In a brief statement at Hanoi's Noi Bai airport, Mr. Christopher alluded to the dual themes of his trip, saying, "I am here to lay the basis for a better future, even as we continue to account for the past."

He expressed thanks for Vietnamese cooperation in locating remains of missing U.S. servicemen and said the fullest possible accounting will remain the number one priority on our agenda with the government of Vietnam."

During his two-day visit Mr. Christopher was meeting with senior officials of the communist government and with U.S. business leaders eager to do business in Vietnam. He also was to officiate at the opening Sunday of the new U.S. embassy in the Vietnamese capital.

Mr. Christopher said he has appointed Desaix Anderson of the State Department

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. hosts Partnership for Peace exercises

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Soldiers from 14 former east bloc countries, Canada and Britain will begin arriving Sunday at a Louisiana military training centre for the first NATO-Partnership for Peace exercise on U.S. soil. Dubbed the Cooperation Nugget 95, the month-long exercise is designed to strengthen cooperation between forces in peacekeeping and humanitarian relief tactics, organisers said in a statement. Albania, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovenia and Poland were to send troops as were the Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. Ukraine and the central Asian republics of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan are also participating in the exercise to be held at the Joint Readiness Training Centre at Fort Folk, Louisiana. The Partnership for Peace programme was adopted by NATO to strengthen cooperation between the western security alliance and countries of the former east bloc.

32 fishermen feared drowned in Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) - At least 32 fishermen were feared drowned when four boats capsized in a storm in the Bay of Bengal, an official said Saturday. The fishing boats with 40 people on board were caught in rough weather off Barisal Coast on Thursday, Shafiqul Islam, a local Red Crescent official said. Eight people were rescued by local villagers. Mr. Islam said. Rescue boats searched for the missing fishermen throughout Friday but without success. Mr. Islam said. Last month, 2 fishing boats were overturned by storm in the bay, killing at least 147 people.

9 Bangladeshi workers die in stampede

DHAKA (R) - A fire in a Bangladesh garment factory caused a stampede in which mine wrokers were trampled to death on Saturday, police said. Hundreds of workers fled down a narrow staircase when the fire alarm sounded in a nine-storey Dhaka building housing the wordshops of two firms, FAA garments and Lusaka Garments. Nearly 100 people were hurt in the crush. The nine dead include four women, the fire itself damaged factory equipment, garments and cloth.

Police brace for punk invasion of Hanover

HANOVER, Germany (R) - German police througed the streets of Hanover on Saturday to prevent an invasion by punks after an annual gathering of the scruffy youths turned into street battles overnight. Ninety-four police were injured in the clashes with up to 900 punks who had come from all over Germany for the festival, which has become known as "Days of Chaos." Punks wielding iron

bars built barricades with cars and set them alight, they hurled rocks and bottles at riot police, smashed shop windows and looted a supermarket. Police said some passers-by were also injured. Police used two water cannons to disperse the crowds and firefighters were called in to put out the blaze. Police said they expected as many as 2.500 youths to arrive in Hanover on Saturday, although local authorities had banned punks from entering the city and placed units of border guards on trains to prevent punks from getting off in Hanover. "Anyone who looks obviously like a punk, will not be allowed to enter the city of Hanover," said police spokesman Horst Kastens. Police units from outside Hanover were brought in to patrol the city. The punks called a news conference late on Friday after the clashes and said they had been provoked by an excessive police presence at an event which had never previously flared into violence on such a scale, "We built the barricades to protect ourselves from the police, the police provoked us," said one punk from Hanover, who did not give his name. "The way they were kitted out, they were ready for deaths," he said. Police declined to say how many police were deployed, but witnesses said there were thousands of officers at the scene.

Iran turns guards into rapid deployment force

NICOSIA (R) - Iran said on Saturday it was turning its Revolutionary Guards, estimated at about 170,000, into a rapid deployment force. The official IRNA news agency quoted Major-General Mohsen Rezaei, commander-inchief of the revolutionary guards, as saying: "Personnel are turning into rapid deployment forces." In what appeared to be an attempt to allay the fears, especially among Iran's Gulf Arab states, he described Tehran's relations with neighbouring countries as "good and friendly."

Iran hails Croatian attacks on Serbs

TEHRAN (AFP) - Iran on Saturday hailed the Croatian army's offensive against Krajina Serb positions, hoping it would pave the way for a major alliance between Croatia and Bosnia against rebel Serbs in both countries. "It seems that Croatia and Bosnia now find themselves in a new situation and they could join the Serb aggressors." staterun radio said. It implicitly criticised Western countries as well as Russia for adopting a hasty position against the Croat military onslaught against the Krajina Serbs in Croatia. The attack had only come after "negotiations in Geneva failed" and in the wake of "U.N. inability to end the conflict" in the Balkans, the radio said. The Croatian army captured the rebel Serb capital of Knin, less than 48 hours after launching a massive offensive to end the secessionists' four-year-old independence drive, the Croatian defence ministry announced.

Mr. Ragin, Fore. Shimon Peres. E Minister Yoss, Army Chief L. G. Shahak. There cem that someon. understand this and will tru to 2" these people. telling cabiner in day. Lasi week. Her was acressed he tried to run \ti
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